

Bulletin of the

October 2009

A M E R I C A N

IRIS SOCIETY





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Regular Features:

Page 3	Officers & Committee Chairmen
Page 5	AIS Sections
Page 6	Regions & Regional Vice Presidents
Page 7	President's Message, <i>E. Roy Epperson</i>
Page 8	Index of Advertisers
Page 9	Guest Editor's Message, <i>Terry Aitken</i>
Page 11	Milestones, <i>Jim Morris</i>
Page 16	Section Happenings, <i>Jim Morris</i>
Page 18	Youth Views, <i>Cheryl Deaton</i>
Page 25	AIS Calendar
Page 106	Donations to AIS, <i>Donna James</i>
Page 108	AIS Foundation Donations
Page 108	AIS Slides For Rent
Page 111	AIS Storefront
Page 114	AIS Bulletin Advertising Rates
Page 115	Shopping Section

Articles:

Page 10	Letter to the Editor
Page 20	News from the Library, <i>Tracy Plotner</i>
Page 21	2010 AIS National Convention Registration Form
Page 23	2009 AIS Photo Contest Winners, <i>Kitty Loberg</i>
Page 26	High Commendation Awards for 2009, <i>Ruth Barker</i>
Page 27	AIS Awards, 2009
Page 65	Pardancanda: A new iris extends season, <i>Jan Sacks</i>
Page 67	Iris Clunker Program, <i>Linda Smith</i>
Page 68	Going to Kansas City: A Median Review, <i>Jean E. Morris</i>
Page 74	In Search of the Elusive Photograph, <i>Janet Smith</i>
Page 75	The Shade Wars, <i>R. Dennis Hager</i>
Page 77	Iris and Children, <i>Phil Williams</i>
Page 80	To eBay or Not to eBay, <i>David Headrick</i>
Page 81	I Just Volunteered To Be Show Chair, What Do I Do?
Page 84	Test Gardens: Expectations Versus Results, <i>Robert Pries</i>
Page 86	On Starting New Iris Clubs, <i>Gary White</i>
Page 92	What are Pseudatas?, <i>Jill Copeland</i>
Page 95	Contemporary Views, Part 3 of 3, <i>Perry Dyer</i>

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President's Message

By E. Roy Epperson, North Carolina

"1959: It was a very good year!!"

1959 was the year that a friend gave me a membership in AIS. The cost was \$5.00 for a single annual membership. 1959 was the year that Claude O'Brien was RVP of Region 4 and was working to organize North Carolina into areas, specifically Eastern NC and Western NC. One Sunday, he and his wife Naomi invited me to their home for dinner to discuss AIS and North Carolina. And my life within AIS began.



I had been growing irises for many years, but had not been involved in the local or Regional or national AIS activities. That was 50 years ago, and now I, like many others, am celebrating my 50th continuous year as an AIS member!

- The 1959 Annual Meeting of AIS was headquartered at the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City. The Registration fee was \$25.00. Hotel rates were \$4.50 to \$16.00, 827 people attended this convention.
- Marion B. Walker was President of AIS.
- On March 1, 1959, *Garden Irises*, edited by L.F. Randolph was published by AIS. The pre-publication price was \$6.50.
- Effective January 1, 1959, Alabama and Mississippi was separated from Region 7 and became a new Region 24.
- The C.G. White Memorial Award for arils-arilbreds was established.
- The Cook-Douglas Award for standard dwarf bearded iris was established.
- 'Swan Ballet' was awarded the Dykes Medal, having received 110 votes of the 470 cast. There were 536 accredited garden judges in the 24 regions, 462 cast timely votes. Three of the seven judges in foreign countries cast votes as did 14 honorary judges for a total of 476.
- The top four on the TB Symposium were 'Blue Sapphire', 'Violet Harmony', 'Mary Randall', and 'Truly Yours'. Do you still grow any of these?
- The top three on the Judge's Choice were: 'Whole Cloth', 'Amethyst Flame', and 'Allegiance'. Do you still grow any of these?
- Paul Cook introduced 'Emma Cook' into commerce.

2009 is a 'Jubilee' year for many local and affiliate societies and regions in their current geographical configuration. Congratulations to all of these!

There are many persons within AIS at all levels who maintain that the strength and the heart-blood of the society is at the local club/affiliate level. I was struck again with this as I was writing this message and suddenly realized that my relationship and continuous commitment to AIS is rooted in our local affiliate, the Eastern North Carolina Iris Society, and in Region 4. I have been involved in those levels for 50 years and did not become involved at the national level until 1994. Several new affiliates are being organized each year. Keep up this good work and the AIS will prosper in the years to come!

Yes, 1959 was a very good year! So is 2009 and the years to come for AIS! 🌸

Special Membership Offer

Effective October 1, 2009 thru September 30, 2010, if a person/couple join AIS for a triennial single or dual membership, either a new membership, or a renewing membership from a single or dual one year membership, AND join at least one AIS Section or Cooperating Society for a triennial membership, THEN all memberships will run for FOUR years for the price of THREE years. This special member discount plan will not apply to any AIS Section or Cooperating society that does not agree to accept the four-years-for-three cost discount.

Index of Advertisers:

Healing Time Books	Inside Back Cover
Paw Paw Everlast Label	Page 17

Guest Editor's Message

By Kelly D. Norris, Iowa

Fall is the worst time for getting behind, especially for a graduate student. So in light of this, I apologize for a slightly later than normal October issue. Mea culpa!

Of course, I've also put off writing my editor's message too. Reading over it now, it certainly sounds different than the tone of my other messages.

Don't mistake me though. I've thought about it for some time, actually all the way back in Kansas City during our national convention. It struck me then that as a society we've got some serious catching up to do in order to remain viable and vibrant in the years ahead. This is a challenge laid before us in different forms.

First, we as a membership and gardening public must demand more from those who produce irises for our gardens. We need a renaissance of appreciation for the *entire* genus and its virtues we so passionately desire. It would behoove our efforts as evangelists of the iris cause to give thought to the worth of our favorite plants in the gardens of those who we may not call collectors. Our neighbors, friends and gardening confidantes that appreciate and relish in a motley selection of irises deserve plants that thrive, not those that just simply survive or, worse yet, those that lack the vigor and strength to do little more than weakly get along. While they may not be victims of the so-called iris virus, they no doubt enjoy them. Otherwise, why would they grow them? Unfortunately, many gardeners don't enjoy irises, perceiving them to be worth less than other plants in the spring garden with more staying power. Irisarians scoff at this. We know better.

That leads me to my second point. We've got to strive to teach people and expose them to the joys of the iris world in their own region. Our affiliates and regional organizations could realize no stronger and efficient cause than to bring the joys of irises to those right in their own neighborhoods and growing zones. Go forth and give plants! Give freely of your knowledge and invest in the passion gardeners have for the outdoors.



Linda Smith and her iris friends have crafted a little idea in advance of such a cause. Read it about “The Iris Clunker Program” later in this issue.

Third, we owe it to ourselves to expect the most from our membership. Let us hear your voice! Emails to all of the officers, directors, and committee chairmen are found in the front of every issue of the *Bulletin*. It may get old for me to keep ranting about this, but your involvement in this publication means a great deal to me personally. I view it as a marker of success. Your good ideas will bring about change in some form. Contribute liberally and often! I can’t wait to see what you’ll write or photography next.

Linus Pauling once said that “the best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas.” If you play the numbers game, you’ll have to win at some point, right? 

Letter to the editor:

In response to your article in the July 2009 issue about weed control regarding nutsedge and wild onions. This is about wild onions. I had an iris bed that was overrun with wild onions. I took a bulb planter, pressed it into the dirt around the wild onion, withdrew the planter with the onion and dirt around it, deposited it in a container, and then was able to remove the onion and all the tiny bulbs with ease. The bed was that badly infested, it took me eight hours to remove them. I was rewarded the following year with only a few onions. This is strictly a manual method to physically remove them, and I would not recommend for large gardens.

Sincerely,
Mr. Julius Kiraly

Milestones

Compiled by Jim Morris, Missouri

It is hard to believe that the Internet turned 40 on September 2, 2009. A UCLA team led by one Len Kleinrock watched as two very large computers passed test data through a 15-foot cable 40 years ago. From this modest beginning the Arpanet network grew as the Stanford Research Institute joined UCLA, and then so did UC-Santa Barbara and the University of Utah by the end of 1969. The U.S. government funded much of the Internet's early development as an engineering military project. But it wasn't until the '90s that the Internet became known throughout the U.S. and the world. This was after a British physicist, Tim Berners-Lee, developed the Web in 1990. The Web is a subset of the Internet that allows **easy** linking of resources. This followed earlier communications protocols that provided the first linkage of multiple networks in the '70s. Everything else followed as the various service providers such as AOL and Yahoo, etc., connected the world.

And now all of our iris organizations have developed or are developing websites: AIS's www.irises.org, the AIS Regions, Sections and affiliates. We have witnessed nothing short of a communications revolution in the past fifteen years. Stay tuned. Things continue to change.

50 Years in the Lone Star State, 1959 ~ 2009

Region 17, Texas, held its 50th Annual Meeting in August which was hosted by the Waco Iris Society who will celebrate their own 50th anniversary next year. The rich Texas heritage was presented by tables decorated with a black and white Holstein cow motif, silk iris arrangements in real cowboy boots, iris stenciled scarves and real horseshoes with the 50th anniversary logo attached. Some local affiliates were actually formed prior to Region 17: The Iris Society of Dallas is 55 years old and the Ft.Worth Iris Society celebrated their 50th earlier this year. On the Region 17 50th anniversary, RVP Debbie Strauss welcomed their newest affiliate, the Lone Star Iris Society in Hico, Texas and their president Mary Huggins.

It was of interest to me to note that the year 1959 in AIS found Marion



Walker of California as President and Mrs. Walter Colquitt as Registrar. Colquitt's April 1959 registrations list for 1958 listed 'Orange Parade' (Hamblen 61, TB), the first orange iris that caught my eye and made me say "wow!"

50 Years in Region 4

Although Region 4 (Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina) has been in existence for much longer than 50 years, it wasn't *organized* until November 28, 1958 when then RVP Claude C. O'Brien convened a meeting in the Greensboro/High Point area of North Carolina. At that time the Region consisted of about 200 members who hardly knew each other. The celebration this year of a vibrant Region 4 with nine affiliates and over 400 members was hosted by the Fredericksburg Area Iris Society (FAIS), president William F. Kennedy, and their Spring Region 4 meeting chairman Lois Rose.

New Affiliate in Iowa

Congratulations to a new affiliate of AIS, Irises Across Iowa, which encompasses members "across the state." Their new president is Vickie Harmon who can be contacted at 614 South Union St., Madrid, IA 50156, phone (515) 441-6563. They have many plans for the future including a web site.

Region 20 Forms New Society

Effective April 4, 2009 the Mountains & Plains Iris Society was formed in the greater Denver, CO area. Past Region 20 RVP Stephen Blecher was elected as the temporary president at their affiliate organization meeting. They will apply for affiliation with AIS prior to the AIS Fall Board Meeting in Tulsa, OK in November.

Remembering Salt-of-the-Earth Members

This portion of our column has generated a fair amount of feedback from our membership as we attempt to recognize folks at the grassroots level of AIS who have passed recently.

Folks such as **Oscar "Ott" A. Schick**, 81, of Henderson, NV, Region 14, who passed July 23, 2009 after a valiant battle with cancer. Ott was a long time member of AIS and the Southern Nevada Iris Society and was a fixture at AIS Conventions with his wife Ginny. Schick hybridized TBs introducing 24 to commerce along with one BB. Three were space agers including 'Forever Ginny' named for his wife. After living in the Las Vegas area for most of his life, I thought Ott's iris named 'Let It Ride' (98, TB) was especially appropriate. Other introductions of his

that performed well as guests at AIS Conventions included 'Augustine' (05, TB), 'Captain Hook' (01, TB) and 'Debbie Reynolds' (96, TB). His irises have received eight HMs and two AMs.

Ott Schick worked as an Engineering Manager for the Marine Systems Division of Lockheed in development of Sea Shadow (ultra stealth ship prototype) and the Hughes Glomar Explorer (a large ship built in 1973-74 for a secret operation, "Project Jennifer", for the CIA to recover a sunken Soviet submarine). The operation became public in February 1975 when the *Los Angeles Times* published a story about "Project Jennifer", followed by news stories with additional details in other publications, including *The New York Times*.

Lowell Van "Honeyman" Markley, 86, of Augusta, KS, Region 18, passed away August 19, 2009. A retired Cessna tool and die maker and WWII veteran, Markley was a member of Botanica (Wichita's botanic garden) and the Wichita Area Iris Club. Active with his flowers to the end, he won the silver medal at the Wichita early iris show in April 2009. He acquired his nickname of "Honeyman" because he was a noted beekeeper.

Another beekeeper and irisarian was **Avery Poling**, 78, of Mesa, AZ, Region 15, who passed away from cancer July 24, 2009 just eleven days after his birthday. Avery served AIS from 2005-07, along with his wife Joyce, as chairman of Iris Program Resources (Speakers, Slides & Digital). Poling went to USC majoring in horticulture before joining the USAF and later the Arizona National Guard where he retired after 30 years in 1982 as a Master Sergeant. He then worked in communications for the Gun Sight Training Academy in Paulden, AZ. He was married to Joyce for 27 years. He was in the iris, rose and daylily societies. The Poling backyard was divided in half like a Mason-Dixon line so each could do their own thing in horticulture.

Belated Memoriam: Archibald Maclean Owen

(January 16, 1904 – June 11, 2005)

Arch or Archie Owen, 101, of San Diego, CA, Region 15, passed away on June 11, 2005 but because of her advanced age the iris world just discovered her death four years later. An AIS life member, her AIS Bulletins were collected by someone and we did not receive any returns until the July 2009 issue. It is a shame we are so late in honoring her.

Named Archibald after her father, who was tragically killed in an accident while her mother was expecting, her masculine name surely helped



Archie Owen



1970 Melrose Gardens catalog cover

build her character. Archie grew up in the Alhambra, CA area, received a MS in Marine Sciences from the University of Southern California, taught school for a few years, and moved into administration. She developed the science curriculum for the Los Angeles city school district. She married in her late thirties to husband Ed during WWII. They retired around 1960 and lived on a hill overlooking a lagoon in Carlsbad, CA in the San Diego area.

Archie's service to iris societies spanned several decades, beginning in the

1930s about the time she found an iris nursery (Milliken Gardens) in her Los Angeles area. She was a charter member of the Southern California Iris Society in Pasadena, CA, and later served as president. This group became the nucleus of Region 15 for which she served two terms as RVP. During her second term, while also serving as convention chairman, the 1956 AIS Convention was held in Los Angeles. The profit from this convention was used to start the AIS scientific fund and to establish the Eric Nies Award for spurias.

Later in 1956 Archie and her husband moved to northern San Diego County joining the San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society. Her garden was on tour during the 1975 AIS Convention. She also helped found the San Dieguito Garden Club in March 1960. She hybridized irises and fuchsia. She has both named for her. Her Louisiana iris 'Exquisite Lady' (A. Owen 87) won her only Award of Merit in 1991 when she was 87. 'Archie Owen' (Hager 70) is one of the best all-time spurias. It was first displayed at Melrose Gardens in Stockton, CA as seedling S279A during the "Golden Gate in '68" AIS Convention. Among those attending that convention was Archie Owen. She and other accredited AIS Judges liked it so much that they voted an HC for it – the most HC votes a spuria has ever received. Ben Hager asked and received Archie's permission to name it for her. The Melrose Gardens

catalogue for 1970 featured a full color picture of 'Archie Owen' as did the April 1971 Newsletter of the Spuria Iris Society. A California artist, Eleanor Martin, painted a floral still life portraying 'Archie Owen' in natural size in 1970. Archie's husband Ed was so impressed that he bought it and gifted it to Archie.

In her spare time, Archie served as editor of the Spuria Newsletter 1966-68, president of the Spuria Iris Society 1970-72, and the AIS Board of Directors 1975-81. Archie Owens was awarded the AIS Distinguished Service Award at the fall 1981 board meeting.

Archie, or Arch as she was known to the Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas, CA, about 20 minutes north of San Diego, was very active in QBG and served as a trustee and president of the QBC Foundation. Julian Duval of QBC reported that, "Arch was pleased with the improved maintenance of our landscape after privatization of the Gardens. She was my good friend and I'll miss her asking me: 'How's attendance?'" Julian reported that late in her life Arch moved into an independent living facility and gardened on her balcony, never losing her green thumb.

In Memoriam: Tom Magee

Tom Magee, 85, of Littleton, CO, passed away August 18, 2009 following complications from a stroke. A veteran of WWII where he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, Magee grew up in the Midwest, first in Canton, OH and then Columbus. He earned a BA in Sociology from the Ohio State University. He and his wife Julianne, known as Judy, were married in 1948. A two-year contract with a Zanesville, OH ceramic tile company brought him to the Denver, CO area in 1950. They left for the Chicago area for three years and then returned to Colorado. Tom and Julianne started a billboard advertising business named Roadposter which blended Julianne's graphic arts skills with Tom's marketing savvy. It became a big success. They ran the business for 32 years before selling it in 1987.

This Irishman had an interest in irises instilled in him from his mother's iris patch back in Ohio. He began hybridizing in the 1970s and registered 72 irises including one MDB, ten SDBs, ten BBs, four IBs, and 47 TBs. His irises have received 18 HMs, 3 AMs and 'Acoma' (90, TB) was awarded the Wister Medal in 1997, while 'Lemon Up' (94, BB) was awarded the Knowlton Medal in 2003. His other AM winner in 1982 was 'Colorado Sunshine' (78, TB).

Magee was an Active Master Judge and a former RVP of Region 20. A detailed article of his life was published in the Region 20 *Newsletter* Spring 2006 issue. 

Section Happenings

By Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant, Missouri

What a summer we have had in the Midwest—the coolest July in recorded history and below average temperatures for August. Our local volunteers at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis dug over 7,000 rhizomes this year in cool weather, a welcome relief from two years ago when we toiled in 106°F temperatures.

MOBOT is an official Historic Iris Preservation Society display garden and we have just completed a revamping of a new historic bed with cultivars from Superstition Gardens and Presby Gardens. Historic signage is being developed to assist in demonstrating the history of bearded irises in cultivation. The new bed arrays the irises from ‘Dalmatica’ (Collected before 1600 by Gerarde, TB) through ‘Jacquesiana’ (Lemon 1840, TB), ‘Dominion’ (Bliss 1917, TB), and ‘Ola Kala’ (J. Sass 1943, TB) to the 1950s. Historic irises newer than the 1950s are planted in the general population.

Four-years-for-three membership discount plan update

The October 1, 2009 thru September 30, 2010 four-years-for-three membership discount plan was accepted by all Sections and Cooperating Societies except for SIGNA. Contrary to the page 16 box statement in the July 2009 *Bulletin*, HIPS is participating and was one of the first sections to approve the proposal, as listed on page 18 in the same issue. Persons joining AIS for a new triennial single or dual membership or renewing from a single or dual one year membership AND joining at least one AIS Section or Cooperating Society for a triennial can get four years for the price of three years. We encourage folks to take advantage of this opportunity to join AIS and one of the Sections: the Median Iris Society; the Society for Siberian Irises; the Spuria Iris Society; the Society for Japanese Irises; the Reblooming Iris Society; the Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises; the Dwarf Iris Society; the Historic Iris Preservation Society; and/or one of the two Cooperating Societies: the Aril Society International and the Society for Louisiana Irises.

ROOTS Journal of the Historic Iris Preservation Society

While I have HIPS so prominent in my frontal cortex, I must comment about the incredibly good photographs in the Spring 2009 issue. This was a “catalog and archive” issue and Gesine’s photos are so

good that they bring back pleasant memories of old varieties. Better yet, they really help in variety ID. The HIPS Archives with all the old catalogs that Gesine has scanned to CDs are amazing. The Milliken Iris Gardens catalog from Pasadena, California was helpful to me as I researched the obituary on Archie Owen (see this issue of the *AIS Bulletin*). I can see why someone (Archie) joined AIS after seeing irises at such a garden nursery. If you have ever given any thought to joining HIPS, the benefit of receiving *Roots* is well worth the membership cost.

Section and Cooperating Society Presidents and Editors

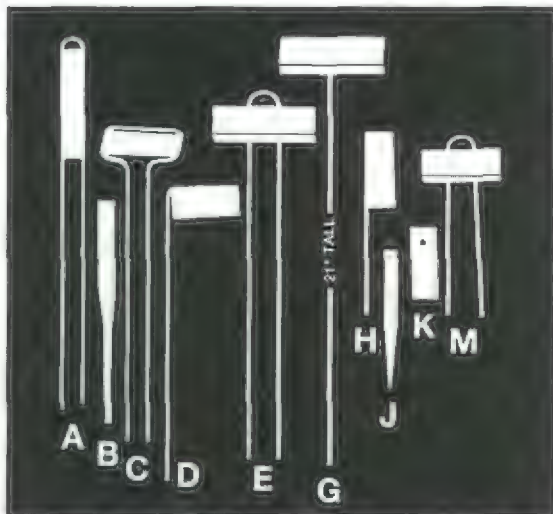
Please remember that this column is for your use. If there is anything about your organization that you want publicized, just let me know.

Future Iris Conventions

Listed here are the future mini-conventions as reported by the Sections and Cooperating Societies:

- **Society for Louisiana Irises:** April 22-24, 2010, Dallas, TX
- **Spuria Iris Society:** June 2010, Portland, OR
- **Median Iris Society:** April 2011, Oklahoma City, OK
- **Society for Japanese Irises:** June 2011, Portland, OR
- **Society for Siberian Irises:** June 7-9, 2012, MI 🌸

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F - Tall Display Labels.....	100 For \$44.50
G - Tall Single Staff Labels	100 For \$37.75
H - Flag Style Labels	100 For \$30.25
J - Small Plant Labels.....	100 For \$19.15
K - Tie-On Labels.....	100 For \$28.45
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Youth Views

Cheryl Deaton, California

There has been much discussion lately about the future of the American Iris Society. Many feel that it lies in the Internet, putting forth information to the gardening public about irises in general and our organization in particular. The use of Facebook, YouTube, Wikipedia, and other electronic means is considered vital for the continued success of the American Iris Society. Reaching out on the affiliate level, getting members involved, creating more affiliates, re-aligning the regions, all have been under consideration in the past year. While all these ideas and resources are important, the true future of the American Iris Society lies with the YOUTH members!

AIS Youth members will become the hybridizers who develop ever blooming irises, the biologists who discover a cure for scorch, the landscapers who create beautiful drought-resistant gardens during global warming utilizing irises for dramatic effect, the teachers whose Classroom Iris Projects instill a love of gardening in their students, the parents who remember the irises grown by their grandparents as a wonderful addition to their home gardens. All this and more is possible from AIS Youth!

The recent Ackerman Essay Contest (see the winning essays in the July 2009 Bulletin) topic was "How My Interest in Irises Can Help Me". I found it very interesting that nearly every essay mentioned two things: family and learning. Here are a few excerpts:

Madeline Strouse, age 5 – "I am learning how plants grow. My nana and grampa are teaching me how to hybridize and create new plants."

Kameron Flowers, age 17 – "Irises will help me in the future, by increasing my knowledge to share with others, increasing my own love of irises and they will help give me patience."

Evelyn Carr, age 13 – "My interest in irises helped me because I used to have to share the rose club with my mom, but now I have my own, the Iris Society. Irises also helped me gain confidence because I'm meeting new people at every show."

Arnold Chaney – "There is more to being part of an iris club than just flowers, there is companionship with other people, and that will teach me in the long run to get along with others."

Kadee Felton, age 13 – "I love gardening with my mom and

watching our plants grow and bloom. My interest in them has taught me how to nurture and care for something.”

Juliana Reider, age 17 – “I think that if my interest for irises, and in turn all flowers, can be transformed into a small business it will stimulate others, primarily the customers, to spread happiness and gratitude, therefore beginning chain reactions throughout the world.”

Kerrigan Baither, age 8 – My interest in irises helps me because I get some time with my grandpa and my mom in the garden and at iris shows. It teaches me how to grow other flowers and food.”

Grace Farley, age 18 – “My interest in iris has also helped my gain many friends and mentors. I will have a life time interest that I will be able to continue and share with my future children and grandchildren.”

Claire Harding, age 11 – “We always plant irises where ever we live. My mom says we should always leave a place better than when we found it and leaving irises behind always makes it better.”

Joan Huggins, age 13 – “Since before I was born, my grandmother has been growing irises. I realized that I was not only interested in growing irises, but other plants as well.”

K. C. Copeland, age 9 – “My interest in iris helps me learn how to take care of plants. I have watched my grandma grow her seeds. The flowers that look the best get ribbons.”

Alexander Harding, age 14 – “I like teaching my friends about irises and showing them how to hybridize their own varieties. Hybridizing is a good way to help the environment too, because we can develop stronger plants.”

Jessie Burns – “Responsibility is another thing that my interest can help me with. It teaches me what to look forward to and what I should do differently in the future if I mess up.”

Cecilia Rucker, age 13 – “I think my interests in iris have gotten me closer to my uncle and grandma. My grandma also helps me learn new things.”

Kyle Pedersen, age 17 – “Irises have helped me to develop relationships with my family and friends. Irises have helped me gain greater plant knowledge.”

Clarke Cosgrove Award

Here is the future of the American Iris Society. Many of these youth members and others deserve a nomination for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. ANY AIS MEMBER may nominate any AIS youth member for the award.

Use the list below as a guide:

- Grows a fine iris garden
- Writes articles about irises for publications
- Visits local gardens and attends regional/national tours at bloomtime
- Promotes irises and/or the American Iris Society to others
- Demonstrates leadership skills
- Helps their local organization
- Show interests in different iris classes and sizes
- Experiments with irises by hybridizing and/or entering shows and artistic arrangements
- Signs up new AIS members
- Is studying to become an AIS judge

Participation in ALL these activities is not a requirement. Tell us something about the youth member that sets them apart from others.

The deadline for nominations is **January 31, 2010** – I know that sounds like a long time away, but it will be here before you know it! Send your nominations to Cheryl Deaton, 27218 Walnut Springs Avenue, Canyon Country, CA 91351-3314 by mail, or email your nomination to region15kids@hotmail.com. They can be sent as an attachment. Please try to keep your nomination letter to two pages. The Award will be presented at the National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. Nominate a deserving youth TODAY! 

News from the Library

Tracy Plotner, AIS Librarian, Oregon

This has been an eventful summer. Breaking my wrist and having surgery slowed me down for a few months but I am starting to move ahead again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Harold Peters for his generous donation to the library. Also, Janet Smith, our slide chairman for the old Bulletins that she found for us.

The Duane & Joyce Meek family donated a great many iris collectables to the library. These will provide a means to generate funds for several years toward the upkeep of the library. Thank you all. 

2010 AIS National Convention

May 31st to June 5th, 2010

Sponsored by the Madison Area Iris Society
madisoniris.org

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS: Madison Marriott West
1313 John Q. Hammons Dr.; Middleton, WI 58562
Phone 608-831-2000; Toll free 888-745-3032

Reserve your room by May 1st to receive the group rate of \$119.
For reservations use group code: aisaisa



Name _____ Region _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____

Additional Registrants _____

Youth Registrants _____

Emergency Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Name tags will be made as printed above.
If this is your FIRST AIS Convention, check this box: ☐

Registration Received	Oct-Jan 31	Feb-Mar 31	After 3/31/10	
Full Registration: #_____ X	☐ \$225	☐ \$240	☐ \$265	Total \$ _____
(Includes both banquets and garden tours)				
Youth (18 & under): #_____ X	☐ \$150	☐ \$175	☐ \$200	Total \$ _____
(Full registration for 18 years and under)				
Garden Tours Only: #_____ X	☐ \$145	☐ \$160	☐ \$175	Total \$ _____
(Includes bus, lunch & convention booklet)				
Banquets Only: Welcome #_____ @ \$40 Awards: #_____ @ \$45 Total \$ _____				

Meals: Please select from the following meal choices (use back if more space needed)

Welcome Banquet

Registrant #1	☐ Pork loin	☐ Chicken	☐ Vegetarian
Registrant #2	☐ Pork loin	☐ Chicken	☐ Vegetarian

Awards Banquet

Registrant #1	☐ Prime rib	☐ Salmon	☐ Vegetarian
Registrant #2	☐ Prime rib	☐ Salmon	☐ Vegetarian

(See next page for more and information on payment and mailing.)

☐ **SPECIAL NEEDS:** If you need special accommodations for disabilities or if you have special diet requirements, please describe them here:

OPTIONAL TOUR: Tuesday, 6/1/10, A Taste Of Wisconsin
(Lunch included, ice cream extra)

_____ @ \$45 Total \$ _____

Grand Total Enclosed \$ _____

Judges Training:

How many in your party will participate in Judges Training in the garden? _____

Send this form and check payable to AIS Convention 2010 to the address below.
If you have a question or need to make changes, Elladan can be reached at
608-271-3607 or email <elladan@tds.net>

AIS Convention 2010
Elladan McLeester, Registrar
1202 Pontic Trail; Madison, WI 53711

Registration received after May 1st, 2010, will be accepted at the discretion of the registrar. Refunds for cancellations requested on or after April 15th, 2010, will be made at the discretion of the Convention Committee.

Winners of the 2009 AIS Photo Contest

By Kitty Loberg, California

Our 2009 Contest has been judged and photos are scheduled to appear in the upcoming January bulletin, on the AIS website, and the Iris Photo Contest website www.irisphotocontest.org. This year a new category had been added so that photos with art effects or macro photos of bloom segments were separated from photos of pets, wildlife or garden art in the irises. And for the first year since the contest was started, we have an overseas winner, Nicolas Brown of Spain!

The photos were judged by three new judges. Our first judge, Janet Hill, resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and was our 2008 Winner of the Close Up category, and had a couple of Honorable Mentions. She has combined her love of flowers with her photography hobby for the last 30 years.

Our second judge was Aaron Skiles. He entered our first contest in 2006 as a Youth exhibitor, and went on to be our 2008 winner in the Art/Macro category. Aaron began his first garden from irises dug from his great grandmother's garden. He won a number of photography contests in high school in portraits and landscape categories.

Our 3rd judge was Lynn Williams, currently the RVP of Region 14, and she resides in Willits, California. She discovered her love for photography when she minored in fine arts in college and has taken additional training in photography at a private studio.

Our judges are a tremendous help to our contest. It requires that they dedicate more than just one day to sort, evaluate, and complete a scoring sheet for the boxed photos they receive, and then have it packaged and sent back in route to the next judge so our turnaround is not more than a week. I do thank them for their time and commitment they gave to help us judge the contests.

Enjoy our contest winning photos!

Congratulations to our 2009 Photo Contest Winners!

Irises Used in a Landscaped Garden:

Winner: Debbie Hughes of Wellsville, Kansas

Runner Up: Tova Johnson of Centerville, South Dakota

Irises in a Field or Home Garden:

Winner: Karen Diedrich of Grand Rapids, Michigan

Runner Up: Nicolas Brown of Alicante, Spain

Events, tours, a person or people (at iris location), shows:

Winner: Mikey Lango of Santa Clara, California

Runner Up: Debbie Hughes of Wellsville, Kansas

Close Up of an Iris or Irises:

Winner: Lisa Linn Arroniz of Kearneysville, W. Virginia

Runner Up: Karen Diedrich of Grand Rapids, Michigan

Photos with art effects, macro photos of bloom segments:

Winner: Sherry Cummings of Brentwood, California

Runner Up: Joyce Wilcox of Waukesha, Wisconsin

Photos of pets, wildlife or garden art in the irises:

Winner: Catherine C. Burgard of Templeton, California

Runner Up: Cynthia Raught of Catawissa, Pennsylvania

Any category taken by a youth photographer (under 19):

Winner: Bobbie Gillespie of Wichita Falls, Texas

Runner Up: Sarah M. Green of Lincoln, Nebraska 🌸



A Winning photo! Watch for your January Bulletin to find out who this winner was!

AIS Calendar:

CONVENTIONS

2010: May 31–June 5

Madison, WI

Chair: John Baker

4601 CTH TT

Sun Prairie, WI 53590

(608) 825-7423

<johnwbaker1@verizon.net>

Headquarters:

Madison Marriott West Hotel

1313 John Q. Hammons Drive

Middleton, WI 53562

(608) 831-2000

2011: May 30–June 4

Victoria, BC CANADA

Chair: Ted E. Baker

185 Furness Rd.

Salt Spring Island, BC

CANADA, V8K 1Z7

(250) 653-4430

<tedebaker@shaw.ca>

2012: April 16–21

Ontario, California

Co-Chairs:

Kathy Chilton

14333 S. Stagecoach Rd.

Tucson, AZ 85736

(520) 591-1729

<Ranchiris@aol.com>

Jill Bonino

3110 Kirkham Drice

Glendale, CA 91206

(818) 790-3256

<aistreas@earthlink.net>

Headquarters:

Doubletree Hotel Ontario

222 North Vineyard Avenue

Ontario, CA 91764

(909) 937-0900

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2009: Nov 6 – 8

Tulsa, OK

Chair: Paul W. Gossett

129 East 33rd Place

Tulsa, OK 74105-2542

(918) 742-1204

<pwgossett@juno.com>

Headquarters:

Radisson Inn Tulsa Airport Hotel

2201 N. 77th East Avenue

Tulsa, OK 74115

(918) 835-9911

2010:

Portland, OR

Chair: Terry Aitken

608 NW 119th Street

Vancouver, WA 98685-3802

(360) 573-4472

<terry@flowerfantasy.net>

2011: Nov 4 – 6

Atlanta, GA

Chair: Carolyn Hawkins

7329 Kendel Court

Jonesboro, GA 30236-2512

(770) 855-4248

<carolyn9999@comcast.net>

Headquarters:

Embassy Suites, Atlanta Airport

4700 Southport Road

Atlanta, GA 30337

(404) 767-1988 

HC (High Commendation) Awards for 2009

Ruth B. Barker, AIS Awards Chair

The HC Award is restricted to non-introduced irises only. To qualify an iris may be registered and named, but must not have been introduced into commerce.

The opportunity for judges to vote for worthy seedlings that they have seen growing in a garden is part of the AIS Official Ballot. The maximum number of seedlings that the judge may enter on his/her ballot is: Tall Bearded, eight; each other classification, three.

This year 199 individual seedlings under number or name received one or more write-in votes for the HC Award.

The three seedlings listed below received the necessary five (5) votes required to receive the High Commendation Award for 2009. There are eight runners-up, each receiving four votes.

- **72 voters**
- **199 different cultivars listed**
- **310 total votes cast**

Type	Seedling	Originator	Region	Votes
TB	J 03-143A	John Painter	14	6
TB	HF-GK-3	Hugh Stout	22	5
MTB	02-04 A	Stephanie Markham	1	5

Runners-Up:

TB	0227	Douglas Kanarowski	14	4
TB	0180	Douglas Kanarowski	14	4
TB	04-147A	Keith Keppel	13	4
MTB	267C	Lowell Baumunk	20	4
MTB	I 22B-18	Charles Bunnell	6	4
MTB	05-04-Z4	Jean Witt	13	4
MTB	07-10-Z1	Jean Witt	13	4
SIB	S00-52-3	Schafer/Sachs	1	4

AIS Awards 2009

**Number of votes listed first

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

(Total votes cast = 466)

56 GOLDEN PANTHER (Richard Tasco)

Runners Up:

44 HAPPENSTANCE (Keith Keppel)

40 STARRING (Joseph Ghio)

38 DAUGHTER OF STARS (Donald Spoon)

THE JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL (TB)

(Total votes cast = 1227)

115 PAUL BLACK (Thomas Johnson)

78 DRAMA QUEEN (Keith Keppel)

55 ITALIAN ICE (Anna & David Cadd)

55 SLOVAK PRINCE (Anton Mego)

Runners Up:

53 WINTRY SKY (Keith Keppel)

45 CRACKLING CALDERA (J. T. Aitken)

THE KNOWLTON MEDAL (BB)

(Total votes cast = 258)

75 BORDER CONTROL (Thomas Johnson)

Runners Up:

65 MANGO SMOOTHY (Carol Lankow,
deceased, by J. T. Aitken)

56 BERMUDA TRIANGLE (Anna & David Cadd)

THE HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL (IB)

(Total votes cast = 326)

81 DEVIL MAY CARE (Paul Black)

Runners Up:

69 CONCERTINA (George Sutton)

59 RUBY SLIPPERS (Keith Keppel)

THE WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL (MTB)

(Total votes cast = 282)

96 SOMEWHAT QUIRKY (Riley Probst)

Runners Up:

92 DANCING LILACS (Stephanie Markham)

60 THAT'S RED (Kenneth Fisher)

THE COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

(Total votes cast = 319)

80 PUDDY TAT (Paul Black)

Runners Up:

43 ULTIMATE (Thomas Johnson)

32 BOURGEOIS (Paul Black)

THE CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL (MDB)

(Total votes cast = 192)

61 TINY TITAN (J. T. Aitken)

Runners Up:

43 CHEMISTRY (Paul Black)

30 WIGGLE (Paul Black)

THE CLARENCE G. WHITE MEDAL (AR & AB)

(Total votes cast = 100)

31 SPIRIT OF CALEB (Peter McGrath)

Runners Up:

24 OMAR'S BLUE MOON (Carl Boswell)

18 KALIFA'S FORTUNE (Robert Annand)

THE WILLIAM MOHR MEDAL (AB)

(Total votes cast = 66)

27 SUE BEE (Susie Kammer by Tim Stanek,
selector)

Runners Up:

16 ULALENA (George Sutton)

12 RETURN TO AGA (Robert Annand)

THE FOUNDERS OF SIGNA MEDAL (SPEC)

(Total votes cast = 141)

66 PETIT LION (Lowell Baumunk)

Runners Up:

41 VERSICLE (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

34 FOXCROFT FULL MOON (Katharine Steele)

THE RANDOLPH PERRY MEDAL (SPEC-X)

(Total votes cast = 219)

95 DOLCE (Paul Black)

Runners Up:

83 ALLY OOPS (Dana Borglum)

21 LITTLE CAILLET (Ken Durio)

20 STITCH WITCHERY (Lorena Reid)

THE SYDNEY B. MITCHELL MEDAL (CA)

(Total votes cast = 45)

13 MENDOCINO BLUE (Robert & Janet Canning)

Runners Up:

12 STAR OF WONDER (Joseph Ghio)

8 MOCHA MELODY (Alphild Lind)

8 RANCHO CORRALITOS (Joseph Ghio)

THE MARY SWORDS DEBAILLON MEDAL (IA)

(Total votes cast = 126)

48 HENRY ROWLAN (M. D. Faith)

Runners Up:

33 NIGHT THUNDER (Richard Morgan)

28 ANN FAITH (M. D. Faith)

THE MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL (SIB)

(Total votes cast = 298)

65 RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES
(Robert Hollingworth)**Runners Up:**

46 CARMEN JEANNE (Calvin Helsley)

41 BANISH MISFORTUNE (Marty Schafer/
Jan Sacks)40 SALAMANDER CROSSING
(Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

40 TOM SCHAEFER (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

THE ERIC NIES MEDAL (SPU)

(Total votes cast = 146)

47 MISSOURI AUTUMN (O. D. Niswonger)

Runners Up:

33 HICKORY LEAVES (O. D. Niswonger)

26 MISSOURI DREAMLAND (O. D. Niswonger)

25 LACED SUNSHINE (D. L. Shepard)

THE PAYNE MEDAL (JI)

(Total votes cast = 109)

37 LITTLE BOW PINK (Donald Delmez)

Runners Up:

25 DIRIGO RED ROCKET (John White)

23 RIVULETS OF WINE (J. T. Aitken)

WALTHER CUP

(Most HM votes in any category)

79 BUNDLE OF LOVE (Paul Black) BB

Runners Up:63 PEEBEE AND JAY (Barbara & David
Schmieder) MTB

61 MAUI MANGO (J. T. Aitken) MTB

61 INK PATTERNS (Thomas Johnson) TB

AWARD OF MERIT**TALL BEARDED**

Total votes cast = 5301

179 FLORENTINE SILK (Keith Keppel)

101 THAT'S ALL FOLKS (William Maryott by
Joseph Ghio)

83 PRAGUE (Thomas Johnson)

72 ROYAL STERLING (Keith Keppel)

67 ELIZABETHAN AGE (Lowell Baumunk)

53 BELGIAN PRINCESS (Thomas Johnson)

50 BUBBLE BUBBLE (Joseph Ghio)

50 KONA WAVES (Robert Annand)

50 OZARK REBOUNDER (Barbara Nicodemus)

48 AUGUSTINE (Oscar Schick)

48 MANGO PASSION (Larry Lauer)

47 POWER POINT (Thomas Johnson)

45 ALL NIGHT LONG (Roger Duncan)

44 DARK DRAMA (Keith Keppel)

41 TIME ZONE (Joseph Ghio)

39 EXPLICIT (Joseph Ghio)

39 TOMCAT (Larry Lauer)

39 COPPER BUBBLE BATH (Anna & David Cadd)

39 CHEETAH CHEESE (Kathie Kasperek)

38 BLUEBERRY BLISS (Schreiner)

37 AFTERNOON IN RIO (Schreiner)

37 BLAZING BEACON (Richard Tasco)

37 BARBARA JEAN (Ronald Mullin)

36 IN LIVING COLOR (Paul Black)

36 AWESOME ALEX (Tom Burseen)

Runners Up:

35 BRIDAL ICING (Thomas Johnson)

35 DANCE RECITAL (Keith Keppel)

35 GUARDIAN ANGEL (Keith Keppel)

35 NEW DAY DAWNING (Joseph Ghio)

33 DUSKY HE-MAN (Gerald Richardson)

32 MIAMI BEACH (Keith Keppel)

32 ORIGINAL ART (Joseph Ghio)

BORDER BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 422)

74 FLEECE AS WHITE (Paul Black)

56 BORDER GUARD (Joseph Ghio)

Runners Up:

47 ZINGERADO (Lowell Baumunk)

- 40 WAITING FOR OCTOBER (Larry Lauer)
38 DANCE GYPSY (Lynn Markham)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 518)

- 52 GARNET SLIPPERS (Keith Keppel)
51 OBLIVION (Marky Smith)

Runners Up:

- 49 DRAGONMASTER (Marky Smith)
36 END ZONE (Harold Stahly)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 552)

- 171 DIVIDING LINE (Charles Bunnell)
112 PLUM QUIRKY (Riley Probst)

Runners Up:

- 49 LARRY'S GIRL (Stephanie Markham)
44 PERSONA (Keith Keppel)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 1193)

- 66 DEVIL BABY (Keith Keppel)
46 DEVOTED (Paul Black)
39 ZAP (Paul Black)
37 BOWL OF CHERRIES (Lynda Miller)
37 PHOTON (Marky Smith)
36 DIME (Paul Black)
36 RIVERBUDS (William & Ada Godfrey)

Runners Up:

- 33 AHWAHNEE PRINCESS (George Sutton)
32 AMUSING (Paul Black)

MINATURE DWARF BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 170)

- 38 HOBBIT (Lynda Miller)
31 SPIDERWEB (Donald Spoon)
31 WEE VIKING (A. & D. Willott)

Runners Up:

- 20 BERRY NICE (A. & D. Willott)
19 MIGHTY MOUSE (George Sutton)

ARIL & ARILBRED

**(Pure aril and arilbred irises
of ½ or more aril content)**

(Total votes cast = 118)

- 29 HAMMURABI (Lowell Baumunk)
23 KING SOLOMON'S MINES (Elm Jensen)

Runners Up:

- 15 GIDEON'S LAMP (Peter McGrath)

- 15 HANNAH'S PRAYER (Peter McGrath)

- 14 TCHA'DEETCH (Rob Stetson)

ARILBRED (Arilbred irises of ¼ but less than ½ aril content)

(Total votes cast = 113)

- 48 PERSIAN SAPPHIRE (Lowell Baumunk)
28 JALLAB (Keith Keppel)

Runners Up:

- 23 NEFRET (Marky Smith)

SPECIES

(Total votes cast = 235)

- 110 SEAKRILL (Jill Copeland)
76 Z Z ZANZIBAR (Brad Kasperek)

Runners Up:

- 37 WOOLONG (James Waddick)

INTER-SPECIES CROSS

(Total votes cast = 201)

- 55 CELIA WELIA (Jill Copeland)
47 NIGHT MOOD (Lynn Markham)

Runners Up:

- 37 ROY'S LINES (J. T. Aitken)
33 ROY'S REPEATER (J. T. Aitken)

CALIFORNICAE

(Total votes cast = 77)

- 10 BAR CODE (Joseph Ghio)
8 DOT THE EYES (Joseph Ghio)

Runners Up:

- 7 ADMIRAL'S PRIDE (Vernon Wood)
7 ENGLISH ROSE (Joseph Ghio)
7 OCEAN BLUE (Joseph Ghio)
7 STEAMER LANE (Lois Belardi)
6 DIFFERENT STROKES (Joseph Ghio)

LOUISIANA

(Total votes cast = 200)

- 35 JAMES FAITH (M. D. Faith)
22 HAIL MARY (Mary Dunn by Joseph Ghio)

Runners Up:

- 20 FRENCHMEN STREET (Patrick O'Connor)
18 LET FREEDOM RING (Bernard Pryor)
18 MISS GERTIE'S BONNET (Dorman Haymon)

SIBERIAN

(Total votes cast = 309)

- 52 EMILY ANNE (Robert Hollingworth)

36 UNCORKED (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

Runners Up:

34 KABOOM (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

30 CREME CARAMEL (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

30 ROSY BOWS (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

SPURIA

(Total votes cast = 157)

30 HOCKA HOONA (Peter DeSantis)

29 DORIS IRENE (B. Charles Jenkins)

Runners Up:

28 SUNRISE SURPRISE (O. D. Niswonger)

26 STRIKE ZONE (B. Charles Jenkins)

JAPANESE

(Total votes cast = 159)

30 LAKE EFFECT (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

21 BEWITCHING TWILIGHT (Chad Harris)

Runners Up:

17 ANGEL MOUNTAIN (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

16 OREGON MARMALADE (Lee Walker)

13 BEYOND CHANCE (Donald Delmez)

HONORABLE MENTION

TALL BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 7579)

61 INK PATTERNS (Thomas Johnson)

56 COUNTY CORK (Schreiner)

51 PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (Thomas Johnson)

50 BOLLYWOOD (Keith Keppel)

49 OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL (Paul Black)

49 TEMPORAL ANOMALY (Richard Tasco)

48 CASCADIAN RHYTHM (Schreiner)

47 RED SKIES (Joseph Ghio)

46 MERCHANT MARINE (Keith Keppel)

44 FOREVER BLOWING BUBBLES (Joseph Ghio)

44 PICTURE BOOK (Joseph Ghio)

41 CHRISTMAS PRESENT (Joseph Ghio)

40 INDIAN SUNSET (Larry Lauer)

39 VERSAILLES (Keith Keppel)

39 MERCURY RISING (Keith Keppel)

39 MILAN (Thomas Johnson)

39 MONEY IN YOUR POCKET (Paul Black)

37 OUT OF THE DARK (Paul Black)

37 HALLOWEEN TRICK (Joseph Ghio)

35 PERFORMING ARTS (Keith Keppel)

35 RAGING TIDE (Keith Keppel)

33 BANANA CREAM PIE (Bruce Filardi)

33 SOME LIKE IT HOT (Paul Black)

31 ROYAL MAJESTY (Keith Keppel)

31 GRAND CLASSIC (Richard Tasco)

30 I'M BACK (Thomas Johnson)

30 FACE OF AN ANGEL (Paul Black)

29 COMFORTABLE (Joseph Ghio)

29 DOUBLE RINGER (Richard Ernst)

29 POET'S RHYME (Keith Keppel)

28 SLOVAK SAPPHIRE (Anton Mego)

28 WONDERS NEVER CEASE (Paul Black)

27 QUEEN ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE
(Lowell Baumunk)

26 BERRY SCARY (Paul Black)

26 BLOWING KISSES (Keith Keppel)

26 BRAGGIN RIGHTS (Tom Burseen)

26 CHINOOK ARCH (Thomas Johnson)

26 CLOUDBASE (Merle Roberts)

26 COMEDY (Joseph Ghio)

26 DRAMATIC STYLE (Paul Black)

26 ORANGE TITAN (J. T. Aitken)

26 PACIFIC FIRE (Thomas Johnson)

26 TANKINI (Donald Spoon)

26 SECRET RECIPE (Joseph Ghio)

25 ALL ABOUT SPRING (Frederick Kerr)

25 BUSHWHACKED (Paul Black)

25 DARCY'S CHOICE (Schreiner)

25 GALLERY (Thomas Johnson)

25 IMAGERY (Thomas Johnson)

25 IRISH JIG (Keith Keppel)

25 IN FOCUS (Michael Sutton)

25 LACED CREDENTIALS (Thomas Johnson)

25 SOCIALIST (Thomas Johnson)

25 VOLUNTEER PRIDE (Tom Parkhill)

24 BRIDAL PARTY (Thomas Johnson)

24 CASTING CROWNS (Robert Van Liere)

24 FOREIGNER (Thomas Johnson)

24 LORD OF THE NIGHT (George Sutton)

24 SENIOR MOMENT (Gerald Richardson)

24 WONDERFUL NEWS (Joseph Ghio)

23 BALLET PERFORMANCE (Thomas Johnson)

23 DREAM TEAM (Thomas Johnson)

23 RITE OF PASSAGE (Joseph Ghio)

23 UPPER HAND (Joseph Ghio)

22 AUTUMN RIESLING (Schreiner)

- 22 DISGUISE (Thomas Johnson)
- 22 GRAIN EXCHANGE (Joyce Ragle)
- 22 INSIDE JOB (Joseph Ghio)
- 22 NOVEL IDEA (Joseph Ghio)
- 22 PASSION PLAY (Larry Lauer)
- 22 SAMBUCA ROSA (Schreiner)
- 22 SUPER MODEL (Thomas Johnson)
- 21 ASTROLOGY (Thomas Johnson)
- 21 COMING STORM (Schreiner)
- 21 JOYCE RAGLE (Frederick Kerr)
- 21 BLUE TEMPTATION (Schreiner)
- 21 BARBARA MAY (Thomas Johnson)
- 21 JUST KISS ME (Paul Black)
- 21 RESONANCE (Joseph Ghio)
- 21 MEDICI PRINCE (Schreiner)
- 21 ROYAL SNOWCAP (Schreiner)
- 21 JEALOUS HALO (John Painter)
- 21 I FEEL LUCKY (Thomas Johnson)
- 20 TUSCAN DELIGHT (George Sutton)
- 20 BELLAROSELLA (Jim Begley by Barbara BeVier)
- 20 ON THE TOWN (Stephanie Markham)
- 20 WALKING WILD (O. D. Niswonger)
- 20 WHITE ROOM (Larry Lauer)
- 20 CELTIC LADY (Harold Stahly)
- 20 JANE TROUTMAN (Frederick Kerr)
- 20 PATTON SNOWFALL (O. D. Niswonger)
- 20 HALLOWE'EN TREAT (Pat Otterness)
- 20 MOJAVE MOONLIGHT (Jim Begley by Barbara BeVier)
- 20 SECRETARY (Thomas Johnson)
- 20 ESCALATOR UP (Gerald Richardson)

Runners Up:

- 19 GILT-EDGED BOND (Gerald Richardson)
- 19 I LOVE A PARADE (Paul Black)
- 19 WADE RILEY (Merle Roberts)
- 19 UNCHAIN MY HEART (Schreiner)
- 19 THUNDERING OVA'ION (Paul Black)
- 19 BLANKET OF SNOW (Thomas Johnson)
- 19 SPOT STARTER (Schreiner)
- 19 SKY KING RETURNS (Larry Lauer)
- 19 FALL FASHION (Thomas Johnson)
- 19 PEGGY ANNE (George Sutton)
- 19 CAMEO APPEARANCE (Paul Black)
- 19 DONAGHCLONEY (Gerald Richardson)
- 19 LOVE IS ALL AROUND (J. T. Aitken)

- 19 PURR FORM MINTS (Tom Burseen)
- 19 MORNING SUNRISE (Tom Johnson)
- 18 COZY STITCH (David Miller)
- 18 AUTUMN SUNRISE (Ginny Spoon)
- 18 COYOTE UGLY (Kathie Kasperek)
- 18 CORNHUSKER (Timothy Stanek)
- 18 JUST FOR KICKS (Paul Black)
- 18 FIESTA ORANGE (Paul Black)
- 18 NOBLE STATUE (George Hilton)
- 18 RUNAROUND SUE (Larry Lauer)
- 18 STRUT YOUR STUFF (Paul Black)
- 18 EMILO (Gerald Richardson)
- 18 LORETTO HEIGHTS (Robert Van Liere)
- 18 SILENT SCREEN STAR (Joseph Ghio)
- 18 JUST TOO MAUVELOUS (Larry Johnson)
- 18 PURE INNOCENCE (Michael Sutton)
- 18 CHECK IT OUT (Larry Lauer)
- 18 EMMA GRACE (Tom Parkhill)
- 18 CAUSE FOR PAUSE (Tom Burseen)
- 18 COMIC OPERA (George Sutton)

BORDER BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 633)

- 79 BUNDLE OF LOVE (Paul Black)
- 59 NICHE (Joseph Ghio)
- 43 SNAZZY (Keith Keppel)
- 26 COCONUT FROSTY (J. T. Aitken)
- 22 LOVE POWER (J. T. Aitken)
- 19 SPECIAL KAY (Robert Van Liere)
- 19 RAMBLIN' MAN (Larry Lauer)

Runners Up:

- 17 SILGREY'S BEAUTY (W. Terry Varner)
- 17 WORKING MAN'S HERO (Larry Lauer)
- 15 MAY HAPPINESS (Anna & David Cadd)
- 15 HAUNTED (Thomas Johnson)
- 15 OASIS ROOT BEER (Keith Chadwick)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 982)

- 55 CALLIGRAPHER (Marky Smith)
- 44 LIMONADA (Keith Keppel)
- 39 RIMAROUND (J. T. Aitken)
- 35 CASHMERE ROSE (Paul Black)
- 31 TRIPOD (Michael Sutton)
- 31 ABBEY (Paul Black)
- 29 LATINO (Keith Keppel)

29 BUGABOO (Keith Keppel)

Runners Up:

27 TESSIE THE TEASE (J. Griffin Crump)

25 ARCTIC WIND (Paul Black)

24 SUNBREAK (Keith Keppel)

24 ROYAL QUACKERS (Brad Kasperek)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 812)

63 PEEBEE AND JAY (Barbara & David Schmieder)

61 MAUI MANGO (J. T. Aitken)

55 BUTTERSCOTCH WINE (Charles Bunnell)

48 PERFORMER (Kenneth Fisher)

44 BACH FUGUE (Lowell Baumunk)

Runners Up:

38 RAYOS ADENTRO (Carol Morgan)

36 STITCHED IN BLUE (Kenneth Fisher)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 2053)

50 ZOOBOOMAFOO (Paul Black)

35 YAHTZEE (Thomas Johnson)

34 MICROWAVE (Marky Smith)

33 CELEBRATE (Paul Black)

30 NINE LIVES (Paul Black)

30 BAMBOOZLE (Paul Black)

30 BRIGHT (Paul Black)

26 ROBIN'S NEST (Carol Coleman/Jayne Adams)

26 FIRE CORAL (J. T. Aitken)

25 ISLAND (Paul Black)

23 ALAMO JOE (Paul Black)

23 REPLICATOR (Richard Tasco)

23 STROKE OF BRILLIANCE (Paul Black)

23 TRUST IN DREAMS (Paul Black)

22 PING THE DUCK (Lucy Burton)

22 INDIAN ART (Bennett Jones)

22 MOSAIC (Marky Smith)

21 ARTFUL TRADITION (Bennett Jones)

21 EWE'LL DEW (Brad Kasperek)

21 PLAINSONG (Marky Smith)

21 MAGNETIC STORM (Vernon Wood)

Runners Up:

20 GIGGLES AND GRINS (Carol Coleman)

20 LITTLE SWEDEN (Thomas Johnson)

20 DEW BUZZ BYE (Jayme Adams by Carol Coleman)

19 SEQUEL (Paul Black)

19 BUTTONWOOD (Richard Tasco)

19 CLASSIC SUNRISE (Bennett Jones)

19 PINK LATTE (J. T. Aitken)

19 OVERCAST (Keith Keppel)

18 JACK LOVING (Donald Spoon)

18 NAUMKEAG (John Burton II)

18 BLING (Lowell Baumunk)

18 SHALLOWS (Marky Smith)

18 SPIDERLADY (Donald Spoon)

18 CLEVER (Thomas Johnson)

MINATURE DWARF BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 309)

31 STRIPLING (Marky Smith)

28 APPLET (Marky Smith)

25 GECKO ECHO (Brad Kasperek)

Runners Up:

22 YOUNGLING (Marky Smith)

21 STRIPE THREE (Paul Black)

20 FIB (Thomas Johnson)

ARIL & ARILBRED

(Pure aril and arilbred irises of ½ or more aril content)

(Total votes cast = 165)

33 REFINERS FIRE (Peter McGrath)

29 PERSIAN QUEEN (Robert Annand)

15 PENNINAH'S PROVOCATION (Peter McGrath)

Runners Up:

13 JELLY ROLL JAM (Caroline Chacon)

10 TIEN SHAN (Elm Jensen)

10 LAKESIDE ELF (Anita Moran)

10 CROWN OF SPLENDOR (Peter McGrath)

ARILBRED (Arilbred irises of ¼ but less than ½ aril content)

(Total votes cast = 127)

44 EGYPTIAN QUEEN (Thomas Johnson)

34 PRINCE OF EGYPT (Perry Dyer)

Runners Up:

17 CHAIN REACTION (Richard Tasco)

10 RAIN MAIDEN (Vernon & Dana Brown)

SPECIES

(Total votes cast = 169)

32 JIN YU (Jill Copeland)

23 RUTH WILDER (Walter Hoover by Randell Bowen)

- 23 CAITLIN'S SMILE (James Waddick by
Kevin Morley)

Runners Up:

- 18 TOUGH COOKIE (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
15 DICK REDFIELD (Dick Redfield by Marty
Schafer/Jan Sacks)

INTER-SPECIES CROSS

(Total votes cast = 246)

- 52 WOOLY BULLY (Jill Copeland)
30 EVEREST BLUE (O. D. Niswonger)
23 EVEREST WHITE (O. D. Niswonger)

Runners Up:

- 14 CLOWN PANTS (Thomas Silvers)
13 CHILD OF ROY (Dana Borglum)
13 TSUKIYONO (Hiroshi Shimizu by
Carol Warner)

CALIFORNICAE

(Total votes cast = 110)

- 10 RODEO GULCH (Joseph Ghio)
7 CHALK HILL ROAD (L. W. Beeman,
deceased, by Anna & David Cadd)
6 SUNOL GRADE (Joseph Ghio)
5 VIOLET VIXEN (Vernon Wood)
5 BATTLE LINE (Joseph Ghio)
5 JOLON (Joseph Ghio)

Runners Up:

- 4 SEEING EYE (Joseph Ghio)
4 PINOLE PRINCE (Vernon Wood by
Terri Hudson)
4 LITTLE SURVIVOR (Elena Laborde)
4 AROUND THE BAY (Joseph Ghio)

LOUISIANA

(Total votes cast = 437)

- 26 FREDERICK DOUGLASS (Dorman Haymon)
17 KENTUCKY THOROUGHBRED
(William Bruner)
16 EASTMAN WINDS (Bernard Pryor)
14 DONNA WOLFORD (Heather Pryor)
14 CAJUN WHITE LIGHTNING (Kevin Vaughn)
14 ICED COCKTAIL (Heather Pryor)
13 CIRCE QUEEN (M. D. Faith)
13 IMP'S PAPA (M. D. Faith)

Runners Up:

- 12 FRIENDS' SONG (Dorman Haymon)

- 12 TCHOUPITOULAS (Patrick O'Connor)

- 12 LULU E (M. D. Faith)

- 11 CIRCE MISS (M. D. Faith)

- 11 LITTLE BRONZED AUSSIE (Bernard Pryor)

- 11 ROCHESTER LILACS (Heather Pryor)

SIBERIAN

(Total votes cast = 867)

- 56 HALEAKALA (Marky Smith)
48 CURRIER (Robert Hollingworth)
42 SWANS IN FLIGHT (Robert Hollingworth)
38 BELLS AND WHISTLES (Marty Schafer/
Jan Sacks)
37 CRIMSON CLOISONNÉ (J. T. Aitken)
35 YELLOWTAIL (James Copeland, Sr.)
33 FRESH NOTES (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

Runners Up:

- 31 JOYCE COLE (Dean Cole)
27 BAREFOOT BOY (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
26 HOOKED AGAIN (James Copeland, Sr.)

SPURIA

(Total votes cast = 281)

- 25 MISSOURI ORCHID (O. D. Niswonger)
17 CHOCOLATE DREAMS (Anna & David Cadd)
17 VIOLET FUSION (Lee Walker)
15 CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH
(Anna & David Cadd)

Runners Up:

- 14 HONEY MOCHA LOTTA (Lee Walker)
13 LEMON CHIFFON PIE (Anna & David Cadd)
13 BREEZY DAY (Anna & David Cadd)
13 ABALONE PEARL (Anna & David Cadd)

JAPANESE

(Total votes cast = 276)

- 24 GINGHAM GEISHA (Dennis Hager)
23 CRAOLA KISS (Lee Walker)
22 KOOL CRAOLA ICE (Lee Walker)
22 LADY IN PINK (J. T. Aitken)
22 PINK PUFFER (Jill Copeland)

Runners Up:

- 19 ANGELIC CHOIR (Chad Harris)
19 CHRISTINA'S GOWN (Jill Copeland)
18 FIRST STRIKE CRAOLA (Lee Walker)
12 SIMPLY STATED (Dennis Hager)
12 WISPY CLOUDS (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

Photo: Black



The Knowlton Medal

'Border Control'
(T. Johnson 00, BB)

AIS 2009 Award Winners

Hans and Jacob Sass Medal

'Devil May Care'
(Black 00, IB)



Photo: Dyer



Williamson-White Medal

'Somewhat Quirky' (Probst 01, MTB)



Cook-Douglas Medal

'Puddy Tat' (Black 02, SDB)

Photo: Aitken



Caparne-Welch Medal

'Tiny Titan' (Aitken 02, MDB)

Clarence G. White Medal

'Spirit of Caleb'
(McGrath 02, AB)



Photo: Dyer

William Mohr Medal

'Sue Bee'
(Kammer by
Stanek 00, AB)



Founders of Signa Medal

'Petit Lion'
(Baumunk 01, SPEC)



Photo: Black

Randolph Perry Medal

'Dolce' (Black 02, SPEC-X)

Sydney B. Mitchell Medal

'Mendocino Blue'
(Canning 99, CA)



Photo: Walker



Mary Swords Debaillon Medal

'Henry Rowlan' (Faith 00, LA)



Morgan- Wood Medal

'Ruffles and Flourishes'
(Hollingworth 02, SIB)



Photo: Aitken

Eric Nies Medal

'Missouri Autumn' (Niswonger 96, SPU)



Photo: Gormley

Payne Medal

'Little Bow Pink' (Delmez 98, JI)



Photo: Black

Walther Cup

'Bundle of Love' (Black 07, BB)



Going to Kansas City: A Median Review

See article, page 68

Left: 'Scarlet Tango'





Previous page: A scene from the Overland Park Arboretum

Left: 'Lighter Moments'

Below: 'Bozrah'

All photos: K. Norris





Above: 'Hoo Doo Blues'

Right: 'Royal Quackers'

Below: Bunnell MTB
seedling G30-5

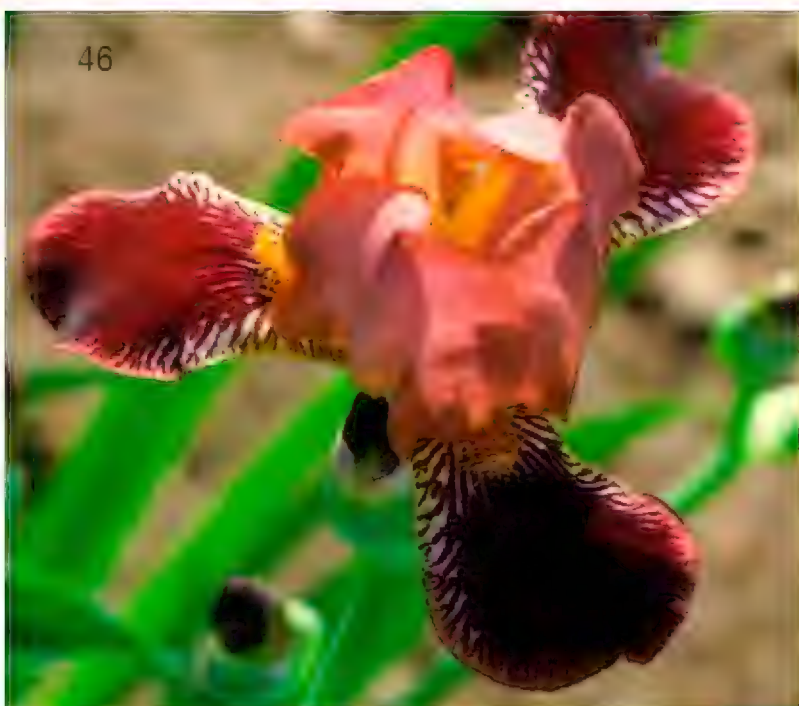




Above: Zuraw MTB seedling Z04-2C11

Below: *Iris pseudacorus* 'Variegata'





Above: 'Petit Louvois'

Right: 'Sari's Dance'

Below: 'Sun Spirit'





Probst seedling

Pardancanda

A new iris extends the season

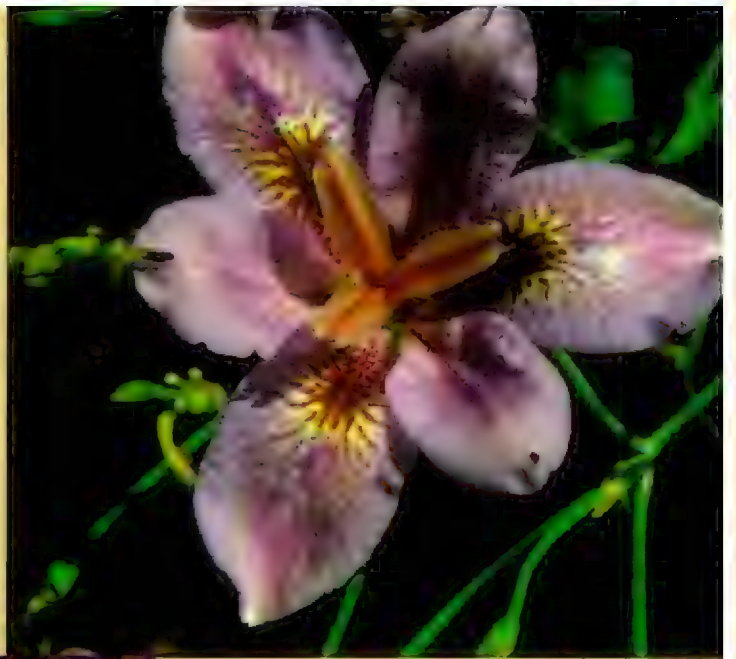
(see article, page 65)

Photos: Jan Sacks, except as noted



'Summer Candy' clump

'Spooky World'



Probst seedling

'Butterfly Magic'



Volunteer seedling

Photo: K. Norris



Above: *Iris dichotoma*

Below: 'Cherry Pie'



Clockwise from right:

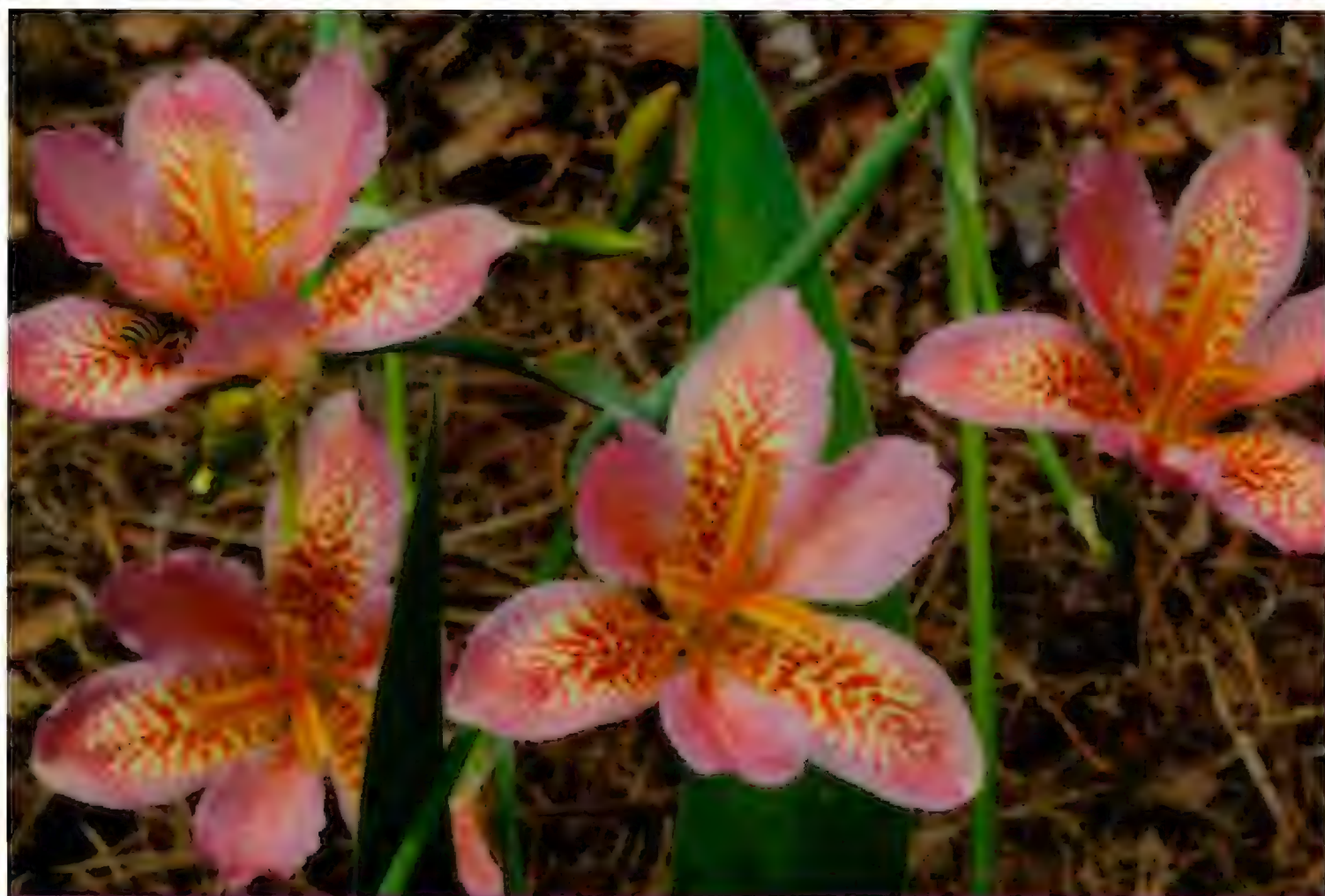
Probst seedling

'Heart of Darkness'

Pardancanda rhizome

Pardancanda division





Above: 'Pink Leopard'

Below: *Iris domestica*





Above: "Heap", relatives,
and Jill Copeland

Right: Q34 x 'Christina's Gown'

What are Pseudatas?

(See article, page 92)

All photos J. Copeland, except as noted





Above: Q-34 X 'Christina's Gown'

Below: Heap's sibling



Gubijin' x 'Dragon Mane'



Q34 x 'Christina's Gown'



Q34 x 'First Act'





Spring Iris Show at Lincoln Iris Society

Photos: Gary White





Above: Representatives from seven Region 21 affiliates receive donations of R&Is for their libraries.
Below: Public iris sale





Above: Judges' Training at Region 21 Spring Meeting

Below: Sass Memorial Garden at Mahoney State Park, Nebraska





Photo: Shadlow

Contemporary Views

See article, Page 95



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Althen

Previous page:

Top: 'Minikin'

Bottom: 'Plainsong'

This page:

Top: 'Synergy'

Right: 'Aglow Again'

Below: 'Classic Sunrise'



Photo: K. Norris



Photo: K. Norris



Photo: Aitken

Top: 'Chemistry'

Right: 'Anubis'

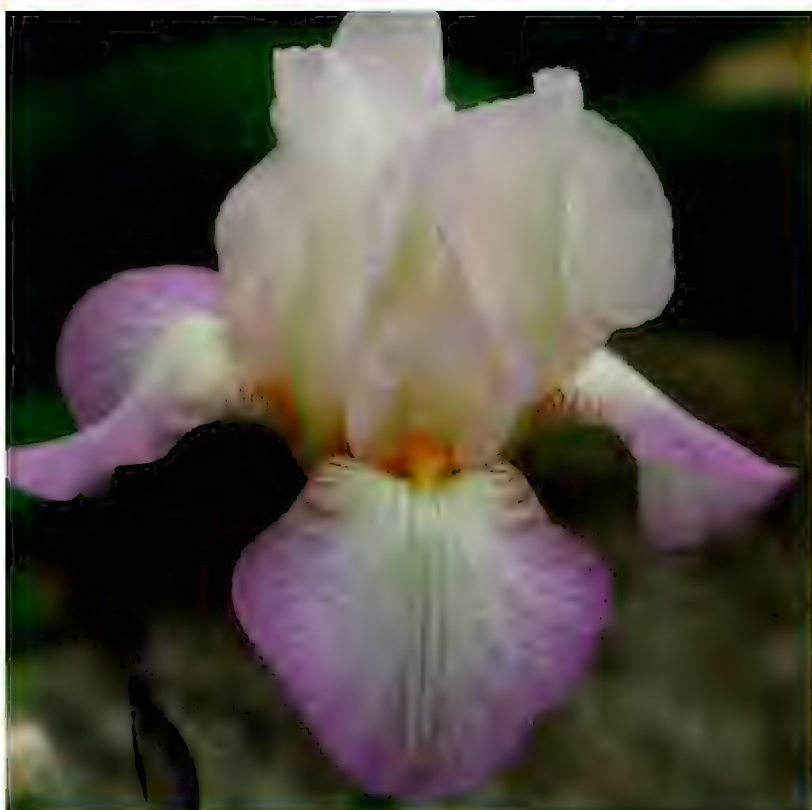
Below: 'Crown of Snow'



Photo: Aitken



Photo: D. Willott



Left: 'My Fantasy'

Below: 'For Your Love'

Bottom: 'Niche'

Photos: Aitken





Photo: Aitken

Above: 'Vivaldi'

Right: 'Noble Warrior'

Below: 'Rivers of Babylon'



Photo: Aitken



Photo: K. Norris



Left: 'Butter Ripples'

Below: 'Adriatic Blue'

Photos: Aitken





Top: 'Hammurabi'

Right: 'Wow Factor'

Below: 'Bouyant'

Photos Aitken



Pardancanda

A new iris extends the season

By Jan Sacks, Massachusetts

Did you know that you can now have irises blooming from mid-July into August? Well, it's true. They're called pardancandas, or botanically *Iris x norrisii*. They are man-made interspecies hybrids, have been in existence for about thirty years, and have just recently been officially classified as irises. Pardancandas are a cross of *Iris domestica* and *Iris dichotoma*. They come in a rainbow of colors, often with wonderful spotting patterns, can be from 18 inches to four feet tall, and have up to 300 small, 1½ to 2½ -inch flowers per stem. They thrive in the same conditions as bearded irises.

Their history is fascinating, including great ingenuity by the men who created them and a real mess created by the taxonomists who classified, reclassified, then re-reclassified them. *Iris domestica* was originally called *Belamcanda chinensis*, or more commonly, the blackberry lily. Both *Iris domestica* and *Iris dichotoma* are native to China and Korea, with *Iris domestica* also extending into Japan. Sam Norris of Owensboro, Kentucky made the initial cross. It took Sam about ten years of making this cross to get the first successful hybrid. Crosses between genera are very rare, and Sam's success prompted taxonomists to change the name of *Iris dichotoma* to *Pardanthopsis dichotoma*. At that time, the taxonomists did not believe that you could cross an iris with a non-iris, ergo, *Iris dichotoma* couldn't possibly be an iris! Their reasoning was probably more scientific than that, but I can't resist taking pot shots at taxonomists, who drive me crazy with their name changes. Anyway, that is how we got the name pardancanda, "pardan" from *Pardanthopsis* and "canda" from *Belamcanda*. At this point, in the early 1980s, a young Darrell Probst got interested in pardancandas. Gardening in Pennsylvania, he had grown *Belamcanda* and loved how they thrived in the heat and drought of his garden. After learning of the new hybrid, he corresponded with Sam Norris, who sent him seed. Darrell spent the next 20 years breeding pardancandas. Quite recently, the taxonomists have changed the classification of *Pardanthopsis dichotoma* back to *Iris dichotoma*. In addition, they have decided that *Belamcanda chinensis* is an iris too. The rules of botanical naming are very complicated, but for whatever reason, the name of this new iris is *Iris domestica* (though I

think that is much too dull a name for such an exotic flower). So, this formerly intergeneric hybrid is now an interspecies iris hybrid and its proper name is *Iris x norrisii*, named for Sam Norris.

Now that the taxonomy is out of the way, let's talk irises.

Iris dichotoma and *Iris domestica* plants are similar in appearance, with wide foliage and a multi-branched bloom stalk that emerges from a single large fan. Both have flowers that last only one day. *Iris domestica* flowers open first thing in the morning and close well before dusk, while *Iris dichotoma* flowers open between 3 and 4 PM and remain open past sunset. *Iris dichotoma* flowers look very much like a typical iris, with standards and falls and style arms. They are usually lavender and have a white signal with purple spots. *Iris domestica* flowers are orange and have deep red spots. The flower form, however, is not reminiscent of an iris. It has standards and falls, but they all "stand" upright, and its styles are fused into one post that separates into three near the tip.

The hybrids between these two species have a range of characteristics derived from one parent or the other. Most are intermediate between the two in various degrees. Darrell Probst has succeeded in creating hybrids in various flower forms and many colors, from white, cream, yellow, pink, and red to dark purple. Most significantly, his hybrids have fantastic branching and bud count. In the mid-1980s, after moving to Massachusetts, Darrell acquired a new strain of *Iris dichotoma* from Korea that had interesting foliage (shorter and more curved), flowers that were more blue-violet, and spathes (bud placements) that could produce up to ten flowers each. Imagine a bearded iris that could produce ten buds from one spathe! This new *Iris dichotoma* was also much more willing to cross with *Iris domestica* than the ones that Sam Norris had used. With this added "genetic material," Darrell's goal was to produce "iris-type" flowers (i.e., flowers shaped more like *Iris dichotoma* flowers) in many colors, with flowers that open early and close late on sturdy, well-branched plants that have hundreds of blooms per stem. Darrell has produced several introductions and he is well on his way to meeting all of these goals.

We have certainly enjoyed growing these new irises. Having irises that bloom into August is a great pleasure. Though the flowers are small, they produce clumps with substantial impact because of the numbers of flowers that are open at one time. The growing conditions for pardancandas are very similar to those for bearded irises. They need good drainage, love sun and heat, and easily tolerate drought. They appreciate regular division — every three or four years. Unlike bearded irises, you will not have to groom off each flower after it goes by because

they're "self-grooming" — at the end of the day the flowers curl up in a neat little spiral and soon fall off! Also unlike bearded irises, they go totally dormant in the winter and can be cut to the ground. They are slower to emerge in the spring, waiting for warmer temperatures. Unfortunately, they are susceptible to the typical iris pests such as borer, slugs, leaf spot, etc. They are not heavy feeders — a spring fertilization is beneficial but not required. Overfeeding will result in lush growth and fewer flowers. Surprisingly for an interspecies hybrid, they are very fertile and produce a lot of seed. If you want to keep your varieties true, you will have to remove the seed pods, as with any iris.

If you have any inclination to hybridize, these would be a great focus. There is ample room for variation and improvement. They are very easy to grow from seed. If started indoors, like a tomato, they will bloom the first year from seed! 🌸

Clunker Iris Program

Linda Smith, Arizona

Everywhere you look in Verde Valley, AZ in the spring, you see the common purple iris, which I think is 'Crimson King', in bloom. Now that's a pretty iris, but the goal of Verde Valley Area Iris Society (VAIS) is to help and encourage people to grow new and different iris. How do we do this?

For starters, we wanted to encourage people to at least dig and divide. Our group decided to offer a program that will give them something for their efforts. We call it the "Clunker Iris Program" or CIP. We may change it to Iris Clunker Exchange (ICE), to give a more user-friendly acronym.

For three or four common purple rhizomes, we will give one named iris per household. With one e-mail, and two days, I already had one new member, and another came to our Labor Day rhizome sale that might not have been interested before. We limited the offer to one exchange per household and/or until our named supply is depleted.

With "clunker" becoming such a buzz word, it's been fun just describing the program to people and seeing them smile or out-right laugh. Now when you can make people laugh when they are thinking about an iris, that's a good sign. They just may get hooked with the iris virus.

Going to Kansas City:

A Median Review

Jean E. Morris, Missouri

“There’s some crazy little women there...” and the song’s lyrics don’t apply to me! We enjoyed seeing a surprising number of median irises in Kansas City for the 2009 AIS Convention May 14-16. The MTBs were especially outstanding, but the three other median classes were well represented also.

Hughes Garden

Our tour busses headed first to the Scott and Debbie Hughes garden in Wellsville, KS early on Thursday morning. This turned out to be our favorite garden of the entire tour, with its lakeside setting and well-grown guest irises. The historic irises added interest and many lovely companion plants contributed to the ambiance, including the outstanding purple columbine and the bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*).

There were many MTBs of note including four stalks of ‘That’s Red’ (Fisher 00) in – you guessed it – red. Although not a guest this was the first MTB to catch our eye. ‘Dividing Line’ (Bunnell 05) was stunning in lavender over magenta edged lavender, with the distinctive lavender line leading the eye from the orange beards down the fall centers. This iris looked great in many gardens and once more won the Ben R. Hager Cup (it also won the very first cup in 2007) as it was voted the favorite Median seen at Convention. Chuck Bunnell’s seedling K62A-1 was interesting with standards of golden apricot over lighter gold infused red. The standard’s color was unusual and especially nice.

A huge clump of ‘Pretty Quirky’ (Ann Probst 92) created a bright spot in yellow over yellow-veined-red and edged lime. ‘Petit Louvois’ (Mahan 06) looked good in light rose over rich red with orange beards. ‘Mystic Crystal’ (S. Markham 05) put up four well budded stalks in white with yellow beards. Also ‘Dancing Lilacs’ (S. Markham 02) made a nice bright lavender clump. MTB seedling Z04-2C11 (M. Zuraw) was a zippy color in neon raspberry with deeper veins and an orange beard. ‘Soap Box’ (N. Price 07) bloomed in corn yellow over cream veined in purple tones. This one put up many stalks and made a nice clump.

Three MTBs by Jim and Vicki Craig were in bloom: ‘Maiden Hood’ (08) was showing the last few flowers from five stalks in white

with orange beards; 'Return To Me' (08) had several flowers left from seven stalks, creamy white over lavender with yellow beards and creamy areas beside the beards; and, 'Sun Spirit' (07) formed a nice orange clump set off with coral beards.

'Maui Mango' (Aitken 05, IB) exhibited beautiful colors in pink over peach tones with coral beards. The clump showed the last few flowers from many stalks and the flowers seemed too large. Ken Fisher is a master of MTB breeding and did not disappoint us this year. 'Lighter Moments' (06) was a standout in blue tinted lavender with cream beards. The clump was loaded with stalks and performed to perfection, showing the charm an MTB can exhibit. 'Margie L' (07) was a petite but bright yellow with orange beards. 'Red Temper' (07) was a deep red-black with bronze beards. 'Stitched In Blue' (06) was a pretty lavender blue-on-white plicata with white beards. 'Isabella Anna' (J. Burton 08, MTB) bloomed two stalks with smaller flowers in saturated yellow over red-black, pencil-edged yellow with yellow-orange beards.

Everyone gathered around the large clump of Jean Witt's seedling 05-04-Z4 in white with vivid red-violet veining in the falls. It had numerous showy stalks in full bloom but we were unable to find a single increase. If bloom-out was just an anomaly here, this MTB could become a wowzer.

One IB, 'Blackcurrant' (M. Smith 99) though not a guest, bloomed two lovely luminata stalks in sooty plum set off with the same yellow veining and pencil edging displayed in the heart of the flower. Blooming at IB height was the arilbred median (OGB-) 'Bozrah' (Gadd 90) in blue lavender over brick red edged lighter. The huge clump of this New England-bred flower was stunning. Blooming at BB height with a BB-sized flower was the Spec-X 'Understated' (L. Markham 01). It was blended lavender tan with darker veining and old gold beards and hafts. The flowers, although plain and unruffled, have charm. Another AB median of IB height was 'Hammurabi' (L. Baumunk 04). It grew about 15" tall in lavender veined darker over rose veined darker with red signals at the ends of bronze beards. The mauve colored styles add charm to the petite flowers.

Though registered as a 26" BB, 'Special Kay' (Van Liere 07) grows as a TB all over Region 18 and did so in this garden too. Nevertheless, it is a pretty bitone with old gold beards and styles. It put up five stalks here, all well over 30" tall. 'Fleece As White' (Black 05) formed a beautiful 24" tall BB clump in white with yellow-orange beards and was a star in this garden.

Lanesfield Historic School Site

Although there were not any medians here, we have to mention the Lanesfield, KS school built in 1904. This rural, one-room school was

restored to vintage form and was the site of one bed of historic irises provided by members of the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS). Maintained by Daughters of the American Revolution members Judy Koonce, Marilyn Rockel and Debbie Hughes, the historic bloom was outstanding – by far the best overall bloom at the convention. And the catered BBQ lunch was excellent.

Kansas State Research and Extension Center Garden

At our next stop, the huge K-State facility in Olathe, KS, several median classes prevailed along with some of the historic irises planted there. But as Jerry Hoke and KSU Center's administrator Alan Stevens attested, the growing conditions were extremely harsh with no wind protection, and the planting methods were less-than-perfect that left the lower tiers of irises in standing water for several days at a time. Many, many irises just croaked. Duh-h. Of the survivors, there were some IBs of note from Marky Smith: 'Calligrapher' (07), a rosy red-on-cream plicata with orange beards; 'Cayenne' (06), a red bitone with ample orange beards; and, 'Paisley' (05), a pretty mauve, apricot and gold combination that is difficult to describe in 25 words or less.

Also 'Fair Game' (Ritchie 08, IB) formed a really nice clump in medium orange with big red beards. Very showy! Two Craig IBs were doing okay with 'Captured' (08) blooming in honey apricot with a violet blaze below orange beards. It had aphylla-like branching. 'Minion' (08) was especially well-budded in soft pink over medium pink veined lavender. Some pizzaz is added with bright pink showing below the orange beards. 'Pan For Gold' (Chapman 07, IB), though slightly tall, formed a lovely, ruffled, healthy clump of bright yellow. 'Starry Starry Sky' (Nancy Price 07, IB) bloomed in light blue with a white area around the white beards. 'Rimaround' (Aitken 07, IB) put up five well-budded stalks. It had beautiful, wide circular falls and is a violet-on-white plicata with lavender beards. 'Gaslight' (Magee 03) performed as a perfect IB in ruffled yellow with hints of lime. The clump had been blooming for awhile but still looked great.

The SDB 'Auntie Em' (N. Price 07) was still in bloom, though a bit tall and large. Perhaps our cool, wet spring delayed the bloom. It is a light orange with darker fall veining and has three buds per stalk. SDB seedling R-S5B-2KO registered as 'Scarlet Tango' by Kendal Rohr has standards of old gold and falls of yellow, rust and lavender arrayed in a rainbow shape.

The BB 'Whoopsidaisy' (Hedgecock 09) is extra bright and reminds one of Niswonger's TB 'Indian Ceramics' (86). It performed well in all gardens and was voted best In-Region iris thus winning the President's Cup. Cute name too! Another BB we noticed here was 'Hoo Doo Blues' (S. Markham 08). It is light blue with dark blue beards. It grew well and

had personality.

There were many MTBs in this large display garden (which the hosts hadn't had time to deadhead) so Jerry Hoke gave permission to the visitors to go ahead and clean them up for better evaluation and picture taking. In the MTB class, 'Dividing Line', 'Petit Louvois', 'Dancing Lilacs', and 'Lighter Moments' again performed well. Witt's seedling 05-04-Z4 was again in bloom and this time showed three increases in the clump here. Some people admiring this seedling wondered if more increase would show later in the season. Is this not the case with some MTBs?

Another MTB blooming here in old gold over a mauve on white plicata, pencil edged tan, was 'Eramosa Freckles' (Chapman 07). The clump had plenty of stalks but the foliage was a bit coarse. 'Missus Bee' (Bunnell 03) bloomed in orchid over red-violet edged orchid. 'Dallas Mahan' (Mahan 07) formed a good clump with lavender standards and falls in lavender with white plicata markings. 'Sari's Dance' (G. Spoon 08) made a distinctive and healthy clump in gold over orchid with gold edging. 'Daemon Imp' (S. Markham 04) is rich purple and 'Jiggity-Jig' (S. Markham 07) is pale lavender over red-black veined white and put up many stalks. Stephanie's MTB seedling 02-04A formed a big, healthy clump that looked pretty impressive. It is a heavily marked plicata of light mauve-on-cream with yellow hafts and beard.

'Hot News' (S. Markham 09) formed the most outstanding clump in the garden. It garnered a lot of popularity votes here as it was displayed in a zippy red bitone with falls the color of Ghio's TB 'Lady Friend' (81). The style arms of 'Hot News' are gold and the beards orange with a slight lavender spot at their ends. Ken Fisher MTBs performing well were: 'Red Trooper' (07), displayed as a red bitone with old gold beards; 'Performer' (03), a heavily marked lavender on white plicata; and, 'Sailor's Dream' (04), a really blue, blue with goldenrod beards. This last one was the major competition to 'Hot News' here.

Powell Gardens

On the second day of garden tours we made it to Powell Gardens in Kingsville, MO. This 955-acre facility is 30 miles southeast of KC and has been a botanical garden since 1988. Dr. Norlan Henderson and Pat Taylor along with a crew of volunteers were responsible for the care of the extensive iris planting here. Norlan has been the driving force behind the creation and cultivation of the Award of Merit TB winners maintained here. Some wind protection for this garden would be beneficial, but lacking it, the small number of medians planted here thrived fairly well.

Aitken's IB 'Rimaround' again looked good forming a large clump. Also 'Royal Quackers' (Kasperek 06, IB) was attractive with many buds

in ruffled lavender blue over neon red-violet with light blue beards. Kasperek's 'Meerkat Manor' (08) was a unique BB in apricot with rose broken color splashes over raspberry with apricot splashes and light coral beards. Aitken's BB 'Cut Above' (05) formed a circular clump but was not fully open yet. Van Liere's registered BB 'Special Kay' once again bloomed at TB size and height. If this occurs in other regions as it has here, I would encourage him to change the classification to TB as it has a beautiful flower in red-purple over black-purple with a bright orange beard.

MTB seedling 97MWX29WR by Riley Probst stood out in bright lemon over deep red veined white. The beards are yellow. We understand this will be the last of the "Quirky" series and has been registered as 'Quite Quirky'. The IB 'Maui Mango' (Aitken 05) displayed more coral orange coloration here while 'Coral Caper' (Aitken 07) listed as an MTB grew to tall bearded height. The flowers were also BB-sized but the color of coral pink with red beards lived up to its name.

Judges' Training, lunch and exploring the remainder of this beautiful garden took up the rest of our time here. The plantings of *I. pseudacorus* behind the *I. laevigata* at the lake edges were amazing. Also the longest "living wall" in the United States was exciting with so many diverse plants tucked into its crevices.

Overland Park Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

Saturday morning dawned cold and windy, but we brought jackets and took off for the Overland Park Arboretum in Bucyrus, KS. Carolyn Ash and Arboretum staff members Karen Kerkhoff, and Phyllis Merrick were responsible for the iris guests. Overall the weather and a lack of wind protection "done them in" but amazingly one MDB seedling 01-29 by G. Davis was either reblooming or sending up a late stalk. It was amethyst with lavender beards. Yes, I know MDBs are not medians but we mention it here because many MDBs are derived from SDB breeding. The Marky Smith IBs 'Paisley' and 'Cayenne' were blooming as well as Riley Probst's MTBs 'Quite Quirky' (registered), 'Plum Quirky' and 'Pretty Jazzy'. Additionally we admired Chuck Bunnell's MTB seedling G30-5 in lavender over red-violet, pencil edged lavender with white beards. Across the lake, the "Monet" Garden provided weather protection for a good selection of classic TBs.

Waddick/Murrain Garden

After lunch at the American Legion Hall along the Missouri River, we headed to the established Kansas City, MO garden of Jim Waddick and Jim Murrain near the Missouri River bluffs. Lovingly known to us as the "plant snobs" because of their rare and beautiful plants (not their attitude!), their garden was a wonderful ending to our Convention

garden tours. From the collection of epimediums and peonies to the variegated Virginia creeper growing up the front of their house, they had more rare plants than we were able to take in. We also enjoyed the humor of the “dinosaur eggs!”

Many TBs and beardless irises were showing off here, and also many medians, planted in light shade in an attempt to hold them back a bit (it worked). Marky Smith's IBs 'Calligrapher' and 'Cayenne' looked good here. Also, Kasperek's 'Royal Quackers'. 'Doe Z Doe' (Kasperek 05, IB) impressed us with six buds in tan over tan splashed with purple broken color markings. 'Sultry' (Craig 08), though listed as an IB displayed beautiful aphylla-like branching and resembled an MTB. It is a red bitone with old gold style arms. 'Captured' (Craig 08, IB) displayed six buds in golden apricot over tan blazed red-violet. Chuck Chapman's IB 'Pan For Gold' grew well here and stayed in class. It drew a group of admirers.

Two of Nancy Price's SDBs were in bloom: 'Auntie Em' again grew at IB height while 'Wheat Fields' (07) was shorter in gold with dark gold hafts and lavender beards. Another SDB 'Light Dancer' (C. Coleman 07) also displayed IB height stalks. It is a light green-gold with an olive eyelash spot and lavender beards. The color combination is lovely.

Many MTBs were performing well. Craig's 'Say Red', Spoon's 'Sari's Dance', Markham's 'Jiggity-Jig' and Bunnell's 'Missus Bee' were all outstanding. In addition, 'Anna's Angels' (Charles Rumbaugh 07, MTB) was a good cream self with lemon beards. One really unique MTB was 'Road Less Traveled' (Baumunk 08) with red-violet parallel line veins on white. Wow! Also, Baumunk's MTB seedling 267C in cream veined red-violet over cream with broken color red-violet splashes drew attention. A rather tall MTB was 'Purple Study' (S. Markham 07) in amethyst over deep red-violet with yellow-orange beards. Liked by many was the Barbara Schmieder seedling 982-MT-BB-1. It was tan ribbed mauve over tan heavily dotted magenta and then pencil edged tan.

At past conventions questionnaires have asked the following: Would you rather see more home gardens or public gardens included on Convention tours? We have answered, “Some of both” or “It doesn't matter” without giving it much thought. At least at THIS Convention, with the exception of the school planting, we enjoyed the two home gardens the most and felt that the irises had better care, planting sites and conditions – and, therefore, better bloom. Does anyone feel the same?

We had a great time at the Kansas City Convention. The “no overlap” meeting schedule, schoolhouse tour, hotel, food, and especially the people were outstanding. A small group of hard-working irisarians made it all happen. Thanks to each one of you! 3 Trails KC was a most enjoyable experience. 

In Search of the Elusive Photograph!

Janet Smith, California

Once upon a time there were photos to be found. Now they are few to none! Oh, you want photos of irises? Stand back—there are plenty to be found!

Where-oh-where are the photos of the new RVP, the Director, that Chairperson, or that new volunteer? We are in the age of digital photography. Everyone carries a photo of their new baby, grandbaby, in their wallet, as a screen saver, even on their cell phone. But none can be found on the web page of the affiliates, societies, or even in their bulletins.

Not so important you say—I beg to differ.

When one spends hours searching for that elusive photo, it's easy to get excited when it's found. On the other hand, when hours after searching none are to be found, it's sad. The volunteer of today may become that important person we need to write about tomorrow!

For two years I have been your Slides and Digital Programs chairman. I love my job! However as I continue to create new programs from the wonderful ideas you have shared, my heart begins to drop more and more. As I research photos closer to the present, fewer and fewer turn up. It's sad indeed.

So I write this in the hopes of awakening that spirit of long ago that liked to include photographs of those who are willing to volunteer their time and efforts, the parties and fellowship times as well. 🌹

The Shade Wars

Public policy affects what grows in the garden

R. Dennis Hager, Maryland

Tree hugger. Depending on your position, it may be a slur or a badge of honor. Either way, it is a political minefield. Practically every state as well as the federal government has programs and policies to encourage planting trees, especially in urban and suburban locations. Experienced irisarians know that the shade cast by those trees practically guarantees a diminished amount of space for growing irises.

How serious is this threat? In one small town, there is a plan underway to increase the tree canopy, which is smaller than the shadow it casts, from 26% to 40% in the next 10 to 15 years. To achieve that goal, they have undertaken an aggressive four year tree planting program, both on public and private lands. Environmentalists are using “tree benefit calculators” to justify increasing urban and suburban canopy. These calculators are focused on calculating the benefits. However they do not adequately consider expenses such as pruning, maintenance, leaf removal or sidewalk repair. There are also lost opportunity costs. For example, what is the value of a vegetable garden that could be grown without the canopy? This results in an inflated value for tree cover. It is interesting to note that these calculators are also being promoted by the ornamental tree industry.

There is new emphasis on reduced lot size in subdivisions, resulting in less usable garden space. Many homeowners, even in small communities have only postage stamp-size gardens. With mandatory forestation provisions in subdivision ordinances, those tiny sunny lawns will soon become tiny shady lawns with no space where irises will grow.

This reduced lot size is not lost on tree huggers. Their literature is replete with lists of small trees and shrubs that, according to their calculations, offer added benefits. These changing trends in landscape gardening should not be lost on irisarians either. A person may not be able to grow the newest tall-bearded irises in the shady postage stamp garden, but *Iris pallida*, *I. cristata* and *I. tectorum* will grow and bloom there. As irisarians, we should know that and be ready to make the recommendation. Breeders should be working toward new irises that will fit in these new gardens, both culturally and aesthetically.

Politically, irisarians have been out-manuevered by tree huggers. We are losing ground quickly. If we really want more people to grow irises, we should be supporting public policy that encourages the availability of iris-friendly garden space.

There is some good news for sun gardeners. With changes in the economy and with Michelle Obama as First Lady, there has been renewed interest in home vegetable gardening. I haven't seen productive vegetable gardens in the shadow of trees. Many irises are more at home at the side of a vegetable garden than they are in the mixed perennial border. Maybe there will be room for them there. ♪



Iris tectorum

Photos: Aitken

Iris and Children

Phil Williams, Tennessee

Editor's Note: Originally printed in the Spring 2009 edition of The Irisarian, the official publication of AIS-Region 7. Thanks to Chuck Winters and Phil Williams for permitting the reprint.

New parents, like new members of an iris club, are often excited about their latest life choices. The “been there, done that” group of both sectors might be a bit less excited about what lies ahead than those on their first go around. New members are often smothered with as much information as expectant parents, and some of it is as worthless as a hoe without a handle.

The first ever iris order often arrives at time when the new member has little planting information that will lead to horticultural success. One would think that a functioning society would prepare its expectant parents and train them well for the job ahead with an annual (at least) program on planting and culture. But who are we kidding? We Americans don't need training! Instead we learn by experience and torture.

How could child rearing and iris growing be related?

- 1) **Love.** In most new endeavors, we begin with a love for what we do. Loving what we do is essential to success, iris or children, and many errors, difficulties and disappointments are inevitable.
- 2) **Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.** In our haste to be the very best that we can be, we tend to be less cautious than we ought. How many iris growers decide that they need new soil, new nutrients, new irrigation systems, new garden tools, lots of new irises (ie-too many babies too soon)? Parents want the best for the infant, including furniture, linens, light fixtures, room renovations, etc., etc., ad nauseum.
- 3) **Many parents are far more concerned about glowing evaluation from their peers than they are about what is best for their children.** Ditto in the garden. Outrageous investments in a magnificent new iris garden are just as fool hardy as following the advice of every parenting “expert” represented in the local bookstore. The pressure of doing everything flawlessly makes for lousy parenting as well as frustrated iris growers. Chill out!

- 4) **Keep it simple.** A child's greatest need is unconditional love. If you don't already love the trials of gardening, expect some torture akin to breast feeding. It can be pretty frustrating and painful on a regular basis.

I digress from child rearing, but you do follow me, don't you? So how do we keep the iris gardening experience positive?

- **Fun and pleasure.** Make sure all that work doesn't obliterate your ability to identify all the fun you are having. Don't expect instant success. There are people who have been gardening for years and still do a lousy job, while apparently enjoying it!
- **Plant in the soil you have.** Don't start tinkering with chemical fertilizers, chemical sprays, chemical drenches, soil additives and massive drainage and mulching systems. A mortgage on a new home will not guarantee a perfect child either.
- **Elevate** the planting bed 12 inches above surrounding areas, choosing either raised beds or raised rows (ridges). By spring they will settle to half that height. You wouldn't live in a swamp and bearded iris won't either!
- Unless you are choosing areas previously cultivated or, God forbid, using a worn out flower bed that long ago passed its prime rating for performance, careful observations during the bloom season will give clear clues to additives you may want to add to your soil immediately after bloom. The doctor will be certain that you upgrade the baby's diet if it is a weakling, as well.
- **Choose a location with full sun.** If it requires tree removal, go ahead and do the dirty deed now (beware of environmental extremists) and make sure the tree huggers are removed before falling the tree! If the baby is crawling, keep it indoors.
- **Cancel all plans for watering** continuously during the summer months. Irises often offer their very best quantity of bloom the spring immediately following horrid heat and drought and will predictably respond to heavy summer sprinkling with fatal infections of bacterial diseases. Baby and parents will permit you to keep the pool filled with water that might kill your new irises!
- **Leave the poor plants alone!** Don't spoil them by giving them everything *you* want! They need to stay undisturbed for at least three years. Resist the temptation to divide and replant – unless you planted them too close together.
- **Plant apart.** Iris plants need at least 24" between single rhizomes when initially planted.
- **Keep them clean.** Babies with soiled diapers develop rashes and

infections if neglected. Trashy iris beds get sick, too. By starting small, this will not seem so overwhelming. Grass and weeds always outperform what you have planted. The weed crops will thin with fine points of culture, soil conditioning and garden maintenance. Keep dead foliage and encroaching “wild” plants removed to allow strong breezes and bright sunshine. Irises are not for shade gardens ... so get ready to sweat and lose that fat!

- **Enjoy the journey.** Remember unconditional love? Accept your slavery as the proverbial “labor of love.” Trust your intuition. Listen to everyone else’s big fancy secrets for winning queen of the show and know that much of it is probably divine intervention.
- **Relax.** Don’t put too much pressure on these poor iris children. If you think you are a gardening genius, prepare to be disappointed. If you think you are as smart as the grumbling, deaf, annoying, uneducated member of your iris club who wins all the ribbons, prepare to be revealed as a fool of gigantic proportions. It is better to enjoy the surprise of success than to reveal your entertaining habit of inserting foot in mouth.
- **Reflect.** Once the first bloom season is complete, you have had plenty of time to record, evaluate and implement all that free advice and those special tricks for iris success. If you are into long term planning, go ahead and decide on the university that your child will attend and pay the tuition in advance.

Gardening is reputed to be good therapy and parenting children should prove a positive experience. If you choose to continue both new venues, both will bring subtle rewards. Taking your decisions too seriously might transform you into the dumbest poor cuss that ever poked a hole in the ground.

Properly experienced, gardening may prove to be a healthy distraction from the grind of daily responsibilities. Be sure that your children will benefit from the time you spend in the garden, leaving them to their own thoughts. All teenagers know that you aren’t the smartest parent in the neighborhood and will be happy to drive the car about town while you are slaving in the sun. Just do it. I highly recommend it. It will do a body good! 

To eBay or Not to eBay

By David Headrick, California

Commercial iris gardeners invest much time, talent and treasure in their businesses for many reasons besides financial gain. Some seek to continue a long tradition of excellence and leadership in the iris world. Others seek the highest honors and awards. Still other growers, like me, may wish to hybridize and introduce cultivars to honor God ('By His Stripes' 04) or to honor American heroes ('Let's Roll', 04) or his daughters ('Lora Dawn' 05, 'Rebecca Leanne Headrick' 01, 'Abby Grace' 01). This grower seeks to name the very best hybrid of all for his wife (coming soon to a garden near you)! And there are still others who believe that fire engine red is possible without genetic engineering.

However, to sustain these somewhat altruistic aims, we commercial growers need to sell irises successfully. How can this be done in this economy? A partial answer may be: work smarter.

Commercial growers compete in a market place with many possible storefronts. Herein, we will look at three of these and weigh the advantages and disadvantages. Let me acknowledge at the outset, that there is probably no "best" marketing plan. That which is best is what works best for you and your business.

Strolling Garden

The time honored sales tool in the iris business is the "walk-through" or "strolling" garden. Here one's customers are mostly local. Foot traffic is stimulated by local and word-of-mouth advertising. A great advantage to this marketing method is that iris lovers can see the plants in bloom in their climate region. Orders are taken on the spot in spring and are fulfilled at harvest in summer.

There are challenges associated with "walk-through" gardens. The first is time and talent. Someone, preferably a knowledgeable and personable soul with good communication skills and a pleasant countenance, must be available when the garden is open. A larger operation may require several such people. Another challenge is that hours and days of operation are subject to the weather. In this regard, some die-hard iris lovers will brave the elements to see their favorite flowers.

Another major challenge to "walk-through" garden sales involves point-of-sale practices. Do you require full payment up-front or take a 50% down payment and the rest at pick-up? When will the irises be harvested and how will order pick-ups be arranged? Will you call

customers, e-mail them or snail mail them? Here there is another “time and talent” challenge: someone must be there when orders are picked up, especially if there is a balance due.

The in-garden sales option can be popular and profitable, but it does present many challenges, not the least of which is parking and local regulations.

Web Presence

A second, somewhat less intensive marketing method is an Internet web site. If one is semi-computer literate, web site design can be relatively easy. There is an **enormous** investment of time involved here, largely because of the large amount of detailed information which must be entered as accurately as possible. We AIS members should be true to the goals of the organization and strive to maintain accurate information about irises. Descriptions should include hybridizer and year of introduction as well as some of the specifics of color, bloom type and bloom time, etc.

Of great importance also are accurate and unedited photographs of the irises. We have found that the best iris photos are taken in early morning, late evening or on cloudy days, and always without flash. Exciting photos can be achieved by close-ups or just after a light rain. It is essential to use a good digital camera and to avoid the temptation to “edit” true colors.

Most gardeners we know want blooms that are true to their pictures and descriptions.

Other issues related to “web-presence” are methods of payment, a guarantee, advertising and shipping charges.

PayPal has worked quite well for us. Yet with PayPal there are transaction fees subtracted from every payment (around 3%) – just another “cost of doing business”. Accepting credit cards adds to sales to be sure, but there are those ever present fees for each transaction as well. Taking checks and money orders always involves the risk of a “bounced check”. However, when an order is paid for by check in April and not shipped until July, there is lots of time for the draft to clear the bank.

Offering a guarantee can increase sales as well. Ours reads, *“if planted and cared for according to the included instructions, we guarantee that your irises will bloom, usually the first year, and will be true to their AIS registered name, or we will replace them free, including shipping.”*

There are many possible avenues for advertising one’s web site. Buying a display ad in the AIS Bulletin is very effective, because your site can then be listed on the AIS web page under the “Commercial Directory/Listing” section. Well over 50% of our website visits this season

were referrals from this AIS web page. Using appropriate keywords in page titles and descriptions and then submitting your site to the major search engines can also bring in web traffic. Most web hosting plans offer this option for an added fee, of course. This season, we even advertised for a while on Facebook with some tangible positive results.

Shipping charges should be based upon a “break-even or less” principle. One cannot legally make a profit on shipping, although there are some online merchants who charge very high “handling fees”. A commercial iris grower might well consider using USPS Priority Mail. The Post Office will supply mailing boxes, tape and labels *free* to any business with the stipulation that the materials must be used for priority mailing only. We have found that the best boxes are the Flat Rate boxes. The “Medium” Flat Rate box ships for \$9.85 (when the shipping label is purchased through PayPal). This box will safely house at least a dozen or more cleaned, trimmed and labeled iris rhizomes as well as the packing material and paperwork.

On-Line Auction Sites

Another marketing choice is one or several of the online auction sites. We’ll discuss eBay here. This very popular on-line market has sometimes earned a bad reputation related to fraud and outright lies. However, an AIS grower who strives to be true to the goals of our organization can overcome eBay’s bad reputation.

Consider this, eBay provides a commercial iris grower worldwide exposure for his irises for just a small insertion fee (about \$1.25 per listing), and a 12% “final value fee” after the sale. For example, suppose I sell 10 irises for \$6.50 each on eBay plus \$5 for shipping. The customer would pay me \$70 through PayPal. The listing fee for these irises would have been about \$1.15 (with 2 photos) and the eBay “final value fee” would be \$8.40. The PayPal transaction fee would be about \$2.50 and shipping costs could be about \$10 including tape and ink. That is a profit of \$47.95 (or about 68.5%). We could consider it all profit because the stock sold is “increase” from the previous season’s planting.

The above transaction could be completed quickly and could happen while the grower is asleep (except for digging and shipping, of course). You can’t operate a “strolling garden” in that way. Digging, processing and shipping of the orders can be done at a time when it is convenient for the grower – like after that summer vacation to Disneyland.

You Decide

Let us not forget the high ideals and lofty goals of the American Iris Society. Whatever method of marketing we choose, reputable AIS

growers should: offer a strong product guarantee and honor it, only use photos true to color, provide accurate information about our irises, respond graciously to questions from the inexperienced or uninformed, and dig and ship irises for late summer or fall planting only after they are dormant in summer.

We commercial iris growers strive to gain a share of the world iris market. Our motives may be purely financial, or they may include the goals of honor, recognition and awards. No matter what the motivation, let us remember the truth of this statement: "What goes around, comes around." An AIS commercial grower would be wise to treat the customer as he would want to be treated.

Biographical Notes:

Dave Headrick retired in 2004 after teaching US History, American Government and Economics in the Merced High School District for 34 years. Dave and Loretta Headrick are owners of His Iris Garden in Merced California. They have been growing irises commercially since 1994. Formerly doing business as "Enchanted April Iris Gardens", the Headrick's changed the garden name to His Iris Garden in 2006. They have hybridized and introduced several cultivars including: 'Spuds and Butter', 'Baby's Bum', 'Rebecca Leanne Headrick', 'Abby Grace', 'Lora Dawn', 'By His Stripes', 'I Wear Purple', 'Mine' and 'Let's Roll'. To be introduced in 2010 are: 'Child of Mine', 'Amethyst Midnight' and 'Deep Calls Unto Deep'. 🌸

Yikes! I Just Volunteered To Be Show Chair. What Do I Do Now?

Never done a show before, no instruction manual? AIS Slides and Digital Programs can help. Order our digital program "It's Show Time" and you will have all the information you need.

The CD contains: "Stalking for Best of Show", which gives hints and tidbits to help you win that top prize; "Floral Iris Design" by Jean Morris to help you understand and compete in the Artistic Division; "Show Preparation", which gives a list of what needs to be done, when and paperwork involved and "Grooming" by Mesilla Valley Iris Society that helps you understand what to do as show chair and how members can prepare their irises for competition.

Test Gardens: Expectations Versus Results

Robert Pries, North Carolina

Let me say first that I am a great fan of test gardens, but I believe they are grossly misinterpreted. Most of the time they do not accomplish what they claim. The very name test implies that there is some science involved. But a good scientist would look at the information we presently get as anecdotal. A good physician practices medicine based on evidence. He would dismiss a single story as anecdotal. But every physician is influenced by his own experience and has to weigh the body of evidence against his own anecdotes. Gardeners tend to be influenced in the same way. "I tried that and it died" is a common lament especially if the cultivar cost over \$5. But essentially that is non-information. Without knowing the cause it is hard to fault the iris. Was it planted properly? Had it been acclimatized? Was it over-fertilized? Its loss may say more about the garden or gardener than the plant. One prominent plantsman always says if he hasn't killed it five times, he can't say it won't grow in his garden.

For a scientific test you need replications. Medical trials are never published unless they have more than 18 patients. Below that there is no statistical credibility, and even with 18 patients some trials are viewed as suspect. But space is limited and I don't see anyone planting one cultivar in 18 different places in their garden. Of course 18 gardens all reporting results in a similar region may have some credibility.

So what can a test garden tell us? It is the successes that have real meaning and should be reported not the failures. I can remember talking to someone at convention who told me she grew a certain hybridizer's irises for years until someone told her his irises wouldn't grow in her climate. We can only assume the irises overheard the conversation, because unfortunately she suddenly started losing plants. Reporting negative data can be destructive to a hybridizer's reputation and generally is not well-founded. Of course if the woman responded that those irises grew just fine for her, than you might question the competence of the person who said they wouldn't grow.

Success is always good to know. For years I was amazed by and a bit envious of British garden books because of their seemingly, heavenly

climate. It made me feel much better when I discovered that they had problems with Louisiana iris. They are so easy here, but difficult in the UK because they don't get the heat in summer to make them hardy over the winter. Regardless, I still have a high admiration of British gardeners!

If someone else in our area is growing something well, then perhaps we need to see how they do. Most irises are so easy that within the iris society skill in horticulture is often undervalued. Is it really a test to plow up a field and plant iris? If they are not going to receive good drainage in the field does that tell us anything about them performing as a garden plant?

So why have test gardens? They can function as a display garden and provide an opportunity for evaluating the plants they contain. If the gardens keep good records and make detailed descriptions, they can provide a great service to future irisarians. When Cornell Plantations was operating as a test garden, they produced pamphlets that included excellent descriptions of the plants of their time. Today these are a major source for identification of historic iris. The records that a test garden can leave behind are great assets. Their comments and evaluations are valuable insights, and for today's gardener they can inspire people to grow new plants. I believe test gardens are a great service but with limitations. ❧

Master planting at Powell Gardens, 2009 AIS National Convention



On Starting New Iris Clubs

By Gary White, Nebraska

Local affiliate clubs are the grassroots organization of the American Iris Society. Without those affiliates, the 24 Regions within AIS would fail to function effectively, and without the regional framework, AIS itself would be without an important part of its structural identity. Local affiliates or clubs across the country are sometimes populated by AIS members only, but more commonly are composed of both members and non-members. Membership in a local iris society offers some benefits that may be difficult to obtain on an individual basis.

Region 21, comprised of Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, lies in the mostly rural, northern Great Plains and Prairies of the United States. This area is huge and in practical terms is about 12+ hours driving time east to west (800 miles) and 9+ hours north to south (650 miles), creating significant challenges for iris members to attend local and regional activities. This is especially important, considering there were only seven or eight local affiliates in the past several years, mostly concentrated in or near eastern Nebraska. This leaves vast areas of Region 21 without local club representation.

To remedy this situation, some of us in Region 21 have embarked on a campaign to start or create new local clubs in un-serviced areas. As Region 21 RVP a few years ago, I was looking for locations to hold fall regional meetings. Typically, one of the local clubs would host the event, making all the arrangements and doing most of the work. Some of our affiliates are small and without the adequate resources to accomplish this on a frequent rotation. I decided that the Region itself could plan and hold the fall meeting in locations other than at the site of a local club.

The idea behind planning these meetings in these locations is to (1) increase publicity about Region 21 and the American Iris Society, to (2) identify motivated iris people, to (3) hold our public sale in a new location with new buyers, exposing gardeners to different types of irises and different cultivars than they may be familiar with, and to (4) determine the feasibility of starting a new AIS affiliate in the area.

Region 21, like most regions, holds a spring meeting/garden tour and a fall (August here, actually) business meeting with programs and guest speakers. The fall regional meeting typically includes judges'

training sessions, regional board meeting, general membership meeting, an awards banquet, an auction of newer irises, and an iris sale which is usually open to the public. Other programs, lectures, and social time may also be included. Perhaps unlike many regions, all of the Region 21 operating revenue comes from the auction and public iris sale. In the past, these fall regional meetings were hosted by one of the affiliates in the region and held in or near the home location of that affiliate. However, since the fall meeting only requires hotel arrangements, food, meeting and sale space and program agenda, the location could be anywhere in the region with those facilities available. With just one or two reconnaissance trips and a few phone calls, the basic arrangements can be completed from a distance. Starting in 2007, Region 21 Fall meetings have been held in locations other than affiliate home areas.

In the past, most of the public sale jobs at a fall meeting might have been done by members of the hosting club with most of the members from other clubs simply attending and buying. But in this new format, all attending members quickly and easily volunteered to do what needed to be done. Taking the pressure of planning and implementation off a particular local club and putting it to the people who attend the regional meetings routinely, the very few from each club who also plan these types of events on a local level, may sound like a negative: that the people who attend have to also do the work for the meeting. But the positive thing about this is that you have highly motivated and knowledgeable people from various clubs all working together, answering questions from the public attending the sale, working the sales tables, and collaborating on various fronts. In doing this, new ideas are picked up to take back to local clubs. At a recent fall meeting in Grand Island, NE, we had the cooperation of members from nine different affiliates.

The first of these off-site fall meetings was held in 2007 in Kearney, located in south central Nebraska in the Platte River Valley, roughly halfway between the eastern Nebraska iris clubs and the iris club in Scottsbluff, NE, on the far western edge of the region. A few members of the Lincoln Iris Society (140 miles east of Kearney), and used to planning these events, made the arrangements in Kearney for that meeting. The second fall meeting using this plan was in Ames in central Iowa in August 2008. Most of the planning for that event was done by Kelly Norris, who is attending Iowa State University in Ames. The third consecutive off-site fall meeting in the region was held this past August in Grand Island, Nebraska, downriver on the Platte from Kearney. I made most of the basic arrangements for the Grand Island meeting. We are also looking at other locations for future fall meetings and possible homes for new AIS affiliates in areas of the region without local affiliate

club representation. Locations in both North and South Dakota may be viable considerations for one of these fall meetings at some point in the future. After holding three of these meetings, resulting in two new clubs so far, it is apparent that with a little work and planning, these off-site meetings of the region can be very successful and the basic arrangements can be handled by the region itself, another club, or even a single individual. Of course, the cooperation and participation of the attendees at this type of meeting interacting with the public is vital for a successful outcome. I might add that advertising the public sale is crucial to getting a good attendance from the public. We wrote articles for local papers, issued press releases with the local Chamber of Commerce, bought advertisements in the newspaper, and on sale day, placed large realtor-type signs advertising the sale at strategic locations near the hotel.

In all three instances, we had several veteran iris growers from the region roving the sales area, talking to members of the public who were purchasing irises, answering questions and asking if they had an interest in a local iris club in that particular area. If there was some interest in a local club, we asked them to give us their names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses so that we could contact them at a later point.

Later in the fall, one of us contacted every person who signed the roster indicating they were interested in a local iris club. When possible, we did this by phone. We confirmed their continued interest in a local iris affiliate club, answered any questions they had, and asked for their input as to a possible date and location for an initial meeting for discussion of an iris club. In the first two cases, the contacts were made in the late fall and the initial meeting was in late February. And, in both cases, the attendees at that first meeting wanted to think it over and meet a second time, hopefully with more attendance, to make the final decision on founding a new iris club. Both second meetings did have increased attendance, were held later in the spring, and attendees were enthusiastic about forming a new AIS affiliate club.

It is also important to note that the Region 21 bylaws contains a provision for encouraging new affiliates within the region by funding up to \$350 of their first year operating costs as long as the club has affiliated with AIS and has at least 20 members, a portion of whom are AIS members.

The first new affiliate born out of this method was centered in Kearney, Nebraska. I called all of the 18 people, who indicated interest in an iris club, and we set up the first organizational meeting in late February of 2008 at the Kearney Public Library. That meeting was an informational one. Most of those in attendance wanted to meet a second

time and we decided to meet one month later at the same location. At the second meeting, the group formally decided to organize a new AIS affiliate called the Platte Valley Iris Society. Officers were elected, dues were set, and most of the monthly meetings were planned. It was a productive, interesting and fun meeting, and one that was very rewarding. Since that first February meeting, a mere 18 months ago, the Platte Valley Iris Society has affiliated with AIS, adopted bylaws, had two successful sales (the most recent one just a few weeks ago netted over \$1100), two exhibition shows, taken on, not one, but two public iris gardens to maintain (one is on a rails-to-trails route), have had garden tours, attended their first regional meeting in Grand Island this year, and have volunteered to host the 2010 Fall Region 21 meeting in Kearney. In addition, their membership has grown, their visibility in Kearney is growing, and they have become involved in other garden and public events in the Kearney area. One of these is especially interesting. In early fall of 2008, the Make-A-Wish Foundation was holding an auction in Kearney. The Platte Valley Iris Society put together a basket containing a couple of gardening books, garden tools, gloves, and several recently introduced irises complete with photos and name markers from member gardens. Much of this was donated by members of the group, but the total value was about \$350. Much to everyone's surprise it sold at auction for \$1,000 with all the proceeds benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Platte Valley Iris Society has become a valued and welcome member of the Region 21 family of affiliates.

While the Platte Valley Iris Society is a fairly traditional iris club, the next iris society to form in Region 21 is anything but traditional. In August 2008, as I mentioned, the fall Region 21 meeting was in Ames, Iowa. Kelly Norris and some friends, with some advice and long-distance help from a few other people in the region, put together a very well-attended and interesting meeting. At that meeting, a huge iris sale was conducted, and again, names of those interested in forming a club were taken. This time, however, the club was planned from the outset to be a sort of electronic club for iris lovers across the state of Iowa. The first organizational meeting was again held in late February on the campus of Iowa State University. Unfortunately, the weather turned very snowy and slippery and only a few brave souls were able to make it to that meeting. We, nevertheless, carried on and had a good meeting, with discussion about the proposed new iris club. As in Kearney a year earlier, we decided to meet a second time. But this time, we chose to wait until late May for the second meeting which was to be held at Rainbow Iris Farm, the Norris family home. That day was windy but warm, and after delicious food and enjoyable conversation,

about 20 people sat down to consider the possibility of forming this new e-affiliate. It didn't take long to decide that the club was going to be a reality, and it took even less time to elect officers. We were amazed how fast there were volunteers for President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. They were duly elected. It took considerably longer to settle on a name for the new club, but it eventually became *Irises Across Iowa (IAI)*, appropriate for a statewide iris club. Since that day just three months ago, the officers of IAI have been working with Bob Plank, and with the help of Rita Gormley, to develop bylaws that will make it the first 501(c)3 affiliate in Region 21. Members of the group also attended the 2009 fall meeting in Grand Island and plan to attend the 2010 AIS convention in Madison, Wisconsin. As I am writing this, the first public iris sale by this group will be held in just a few days at the Labor Day Flower Show in Madrid, Iowa, thanks to the generosity of other Region 21 members and clubs who donated irises from their gardens. IAI President Vicki Harmon keeps members apprised of news about the club and gathers input by email on various topics. In addition, the club already has started its own blog and you can access it at <http://irisesacrossiowa.blogspot.com/>. *Irises Across Iowa* is already planning an iris garden tour next spring and their second public sale late next summer. In the meantime, they are growing, having fun, communicating regularly by email and their blog, and they have already volunteered to host the fall 2011 meeting somewhere in Iowa.

The third possible new iris affiliate in Region 21 will be in Grand Island, just a 30-minute drive from Kearney. Grand Island is a gardening town, will be the new host of the Nebraska State Fair starting in 2010, and is one of the world's top birding destinations. We are confident that a new, vibrant iris club can be formed in this interesting location. The Platte Valley Iris Society is already excited about a sister iris club nearby and the possibility of collaborating. Twenty five people signed our roster, indicating interest in a new iris affiliate in Grand Island. That's an even larger number than in Kearney or Ames, so we feel good about adding them to our list of affiliates in Region 21 within a few months.

Having proceeded down this path three times at a fall regional meeting in a new, non-affiliate location, it is evident that there are lots of gardeners who are willing to learn about irises and some who are already growing irises, sometimes hundreds of irises, but who don't belong to an iris club or to AIS. It's eye-opening to talk to them and sometimes hear about their long years of loving and growing irises, or to tell them about the American Iris Society and find that many have never heard of AIS or Region 21. If we are truly interested in reaching out to gardeners and educating them about irises and the American Iris Society, we need

to think about how we can effectively go into locations without current local affiliates and meet new people. Some of the enthusiastic members on a local level will soon become enthusiastic on a regional level, and some of those will eventually become enthusiastic on the national level. We've already seen that enthusiasm locally and regionally in Region 21 in just a few short months.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, local iris affiliate clubs are the basic level of organization in the American Iris Society and are vital to its overall health and growth. It seems to me that we all should be thinking about locations where new iris clubs can and should be formed. There are literally hundreds of possible locations around the country, and it takes just a few interested and dedicated people willing to spend time, effort and determination to get a new one started and flourishing. Search out those interested gardeners and iris lovers. I know they are there waiting for you. I challenge every Region to review their bylaws to amend them to encourage and facilitate formation of new affiliates. Certainly other clubs can help found new clubs, and even individuals can start a new iris club. It's easy to say that helping form two new affiliates and working on the third in Region 21 has been very rewarding, and the great enthusiasm and interest of the new members and clubs has brought new vitality to Region 21. ❧



Founding members of Irises Across Iowa gathered at Rainbow Iris Farm, May 31, 2009

What are Pseudatas?

Jill Copeland, Michigan

Shimizu calls them “eye shadow” irises. They are a cross between *I. pseudacorus* and *I. ensata* (Japanese Iris-JI). It is not an easy cross to make. My first attempt was in 1988 and from almost 100 crosses I got 9 pods. Over two years, one pod produced 7 seedlings—the other 8 nothing. Not all *I. pseudacorus* cultivars will cross with JIs. When making any interspecific cross, it is important to guard against self-pollination so you don’t end up with seedlings looking like the pod species. I do this by removing the falls from the pod parent while it is in loose bud to deprive bees from having a landing place. I also remove the anthers so ants and other crawling insects can’t track pollen onto the stigmatic lip.

Why would anyone want to make that cross? Osugi and Ueki made the cross to get yellow Japanese iris. They introduced ‘Aichi No Kagayaki’ in 1962 and ‘Kimboshi’ in 1971. Both cultivars have yellow flowers, which are a little larger than *I. pseudacorus* and have the form of JIs. Both cultivars are short and have yellow-green foliage. The clumps can be a focal point because of the color of the foliage but the bloom color is too similar to the foliage color to have carrying power.

My reason for making the cross was and still is different. JIs have strict growing requirements (pH, transplanting requirements, water requirements, *etc.*) and often have few buds. *I. pseudacorus* is easy to grow as long as it has moist soil and can have 24+ buds. I envisioned an easy to grow plant with many buds and flowers as large and lovely as JIs. One of those seedlings from the 1988 crosses bloomed and in 1997 I introduced it as ‘Pixie Won’. It is short, has yellow-green foliage, and nice but small red-violet flowers – a far cry from my vision. The other six seedlings never bloomed.

A word about *I. pseudacorus* is necessary. This species is a respectable, mostly European species, thought by many to be the inspiration for the Fleur de Lis. In this country some, especially in some governmental agencies, have decided that this species is harmful. I have grown thousands of *I. pseudacorus* seedlings with no harm to the environment, though they are hard to dispose of. But so are unwanted daylily seedlings. The Kalamazoo River has been lined with *I. pseudacorus* for more than 40 years with no problem. I can understand that if you put them in irrigation ditches you might have a problem--so don’t do it! Cattails

are a problem in that situation too. *I. pseudacorus* has 34 chromosomes, is most commonly yellow but can be creamy white, and has three falls. There are a few cultivars with more falls, but those seem to lose their fertility.

Interesting, *I. ensata* has 24 chromosomes, comes in most iris colors except yellow, and can have three, six, or multiple falls. The original wild species had three falls and was red-violet. Through 600 + years of selecting, collecting, and breeding all these colors and forms have developed. Bees prefer three falls, but people prefer diversity.

The two species together produce very interesting results. Both have green foliage for the most part but together most of the offspring have yellow-green foliage. A big break through came with Shimizu's 'Gubijin' (05), a small *I. pseudacorus* (out of 'Roy Davidson', I believe) that doesn't make bee pods easily but does make pods when crossed with JIs, and produces *I. x pseudata* with green foliage! These plants are vigorous, not quite as large as *I. pseudacorus*, have many buds per stalk, and flowers larger than *I. pseudacorus*. It is reasonable to believe that 'Gubijin' has some extra genetic material besides just *I. pseudacorus* as it has 35 chromosomes. Shimizu has produced (introduced by Carol Warner at Draycott Gardens) many very good pseudatas out of 'Gubijin'.

Presumably, pseudatas have 29 chromosomes. As far as I know, no one has counted them but pseudatas are sterile which would be expected with such an uneven chromosome count. 'Ohayo Gozaimasu' (Ackerman 03) is a real achievement in that it is a tetraploid with 58 chromosomes, presumably. It will make seeds but so far as I know no one has produced any offspring with it.

All pseudatas have three falls. The three fall trait is dominant to all other forms and all *I. pseudacorus* parents have three falls. So until we have fertile *I. pseudacorus* with more falls that can cross with *I. ensata*, we are not apt to have a diversity of fall numbers. John Coble has crossed 'Gubijin' with JIs with multiple falls and gotten three fall pseudatas. Now we have to wait for a mutation as has obviously happened in *I. ensata*, Siberian Iris, LAs, TBs, etc.

'Chance Beauty' (Ellis 88) is a very interesting cultivar, a pseudata with green foliage. I have been told that its chromosomes have been analyzed and it has two sets of *I. pseudacorus* and one set of *I. ensata* chromosomes. It produces a few bee pods. All of the resulting seeds, which I have germinated, produce plants that look like ordinary *I. pseudacorus*. However, these plants easily cross with JIs to produce pseudatas. One such seedling, Q-34 blooms at JI time after most *I. pseudacorus* have finished blooming. It easily makes pseudatas, some of which are quite vigorous, but so far all have yellow-green foliage.

A cross with another ‘Chance Beauty’ baby produced a pod resulting in pseudatas most of which have yellow-green foliage and varying degrees of vigor. One, however, has green foliage and is huge. It is an untidy plant that I refer to as “Heap” but it will not be introduced. A one-year plant was already too big to dig and taller than I am. This is more than what I envisioned. The blooms are nice and big like JI and ‘Chance Beauty’ flowers. Its flowers are not as nice as ‘Chance Beauty’. It undoubtedly consumes volumes of CO₂. It has set bee pods and the seeds have germinated but haven’t bloomed yet.

What is in the future for pseudatas? This is the ground floor of a new type of iris. Look what has happened to IBs, TBs, LAs, etc., over the years. Hiroshi Shimizu’s wonderful “eye-shadow” irises were produced from crosses of ‘Gubijin’ and mixed pollen JIs, as I understand it. John Coble at Ensata Gardens and Chad Harris at Mt. Pleasant Iris Farm (and maybe others that I don’t know about) are using ‘Gubijin’ with specific JIs. Ensata Gardens have chosen some of these pseudatas for future introduction. I am working on crossing tetraploid pseudacorus and tetraploid JIs to get fertile pseudatas. This cross is fairly easy to do and the resulting seeds germinate easily (so far, only yellow-green plants) but the seedlings haven’t survived long enough to bloom. I will keep trying. I am also trying to get an *I. pseudacorus* that will cross with JIs and give green foliage. To do this end, I am crossing ‘Chance Beauty’ and ‘Roy Davidson’. I am also crossing ‘Chance Beauty’ babies like Q-34 with JIs. One of the problems is that *I. pseudacorus* must be the pod parent and for the most part it is finished blooming by the time that most of the JIs are blooming. Q-34 and some of the ‘Chance Beauty’ babies bloom late. Also I have had success freezing JI pollen. The future is full of promise!

Editor’s Note: A quick note about how to interpret nomenclatural grammar. Since the word “pseudata” is used vernacularly and colloquially to refer to these hybrids, its usage as a common name doesn’t require capitalization, italics or the hybrid script “x” in front of it. However, when referring directly to the circumscription of the interspecific cross (*Iris x pseudata*), appropriate standards for capitalization and italics apply. 🌸

Contemporary Views – 2007/2008, Part 3

By Perry Dyer, Oklahoma

Editor's Note: This is the third installment of Perry's Contemporary Views. You can find a complete collection of Contemporary Views from 1988-2008 on the AIS website at http://www.irises.org/growing.htm#Contemporary_Views:_

Medians by Classification

Tetraploid Miniature Tall Bearded

'Aglow Again' (Fisher 2004) is a major advancement in MTB work, in that reblooming MTBs just don't exist. This clean crisp apricot tetraploid with deeper beards looked good both in Oklahoma and again in Nebraska. Form is quite pleasing, wide but still retaining the grace and charm of an MTB. Good substance and decent stalks. Foliage appeared to be a bit thick, but not to the point of being a defect, and certainly not bad for a tet. 'My Fantasy' (Craig 2005) is another breakthrough in color in the important *I. aphylla* breeding the Craigs have been working. Clean soft pink of the standards and heart of the flower continues into the center of the falls, with a patch of white surrounding tangerine beards. Then, lavender-orchid veins gradually intensify to a solid band around the falls. These *I. aphylla* things are tough to categorize sometimes. This was originally registered as an IB, but was reclassified after introduction to MTB. With the graceful, thin stalks and the simple form of the flowers, I think that reclassification was appropriate. A lovely affair, and a welcome addition to a class of iris with a limited color palette. Its sib, 'Please' (Craig 2005) also sports an 'Emma Cook' type pattern, this time with clean light yellow standards, style arms slightly deep, then white falls edged in a lavender wash. The color array is pulled together with yellow beards and a presence of yellow in the falls' hafts. As with its sib, it has "happy colors" – clean and refreshing – especially in this classification.

Diploid Miniature Tall Bearded

A trio of new MTBs from the Willotts was impressive. 'Calico Vista' (Willott 2006) reminded me of a smaller, brighter version of its father, 'Bangles' (L. Miller), in mauve-orchid with deeper texture veining. It bloomed at the lower end of the class, with three well spaced branches, and well proportioned, slender, graceful foliage. A sister seedling, 'Garnet Jewelry' (Willott 2006) is a deep garnet red infused darker violet,

contrasted with a distinctive white spray pattern of haft marks in the upper part of the falls. It has nice tight form, and the colors are rich and attractive. ‘Velvet Skirts’ (Willott 2006), another sib, was just starting to bloom in Oklahoma City, and was at the lower end of the scale, but still managed to carry three branches with good spacing. Its color manifests itself more like its other parent, ‘Consummation’, as a neglecta, with light violet standards over deep velvet violet falls with a white ray pattern around the beards. ‘Petit Louvois’ (Mahan 2006) produced massive clumps at the Oklahoma City convention, full of fairly tall stalks carrying three to four rather wide branches and double sockets, so impressive that it went on to be First Runnerup for the inaugural Ben Hager Cup for Best Median at the convention. Cleverly named, it reminds one of an MTB version of the famous historic French variety, ‘Louvois’ (Cayeux), a muted red-violet bitone with a significant influence of brown throughout. In cold Nebraska it survived the late freeze without flinching and had richer colors than in Oklahoma. Deep gold beards complement the color ensemble.

CLASSICS: ‘Dappled Pony’ (Witt 1981), ‘Fun and Fancy’ (Guild 1980), ‘Gumdrops’ (Hager 1982).

Border Bearded

There were very few medians to choose from at the Austin Convention for the Hager Cup for Best Median, but two BBs were exceptional and were vying for top honors. The winner, ‘Crow’s Feet’ (Black 2006), is a crazy concoction, brilliantly named, with pure white standards atop falls that are also white base, but then wildly veined rich purple, straight up and down from the shoulders to the bottom of the flower. Then, as you approach the bottom of the falls, you find lighter purple sanding cropping up in between the lines. Pull it all together with a distinctive white rim around the falls. Bright tangerine beards add pizzazz, and if you look closely, you’ll even find some undertonings of peach in the heart of the flower, in the style arms. Flower size is consistently in class. Although the height is at the top of the BB class, and it looks like it’s thinking about stretching too tall, it resists temptation and stays within the class. ‘Niche’ (Ghio 2007) produced a smashing clump at the Natural Gardener Garden in Austin and was my personal choice for the cup—a scaled-down version of ‘Gypsy Lord’ (Keppel), the Cook Cup winner in Austin, and much prettier and classier. Standards were purest, cold white. Falls continue the white, but are then heavily banded in ultramarine blue, accented with a bright red beard. The band is more distinctive than the ragged edges of ‘Gypsy Lord’ and the flowers are round and ruffled. Height was correct, but the flowers appeared to be approaching the limit for a BB, and the foliage perhaps a bit thick. Stepping back, looking at the clump, the overall impact was that of a good BB. And sometimes the visual effect is just as important as getting out the ruler to see if something perfectly matches the specifications of the class

(please, no hate mail from the AIS judges....)

The quality of 'Elegant Lass' (Craig 2002) was first observed during the Portland Median Convention in 2004, and continued to impress this year both in Oklahoma City and in the Nebraska median convention gardens. Easy on the eye, it is a simply formed clean orchid-lilac bitone with a subdued yellow beard. Although registered at the upper end of the class, I found the height of the stalks to consistently be well within the proper range for a BB. Although Terry Varner is best known for his development of MTBs, his work with BBs is exceptional. His pert, bright yellow 'Romantic Interlude' was overlooked by AIS judges in my opinion. In Nebraska, in two different gardens, we saw his new neglecta, 'Silgrey's Beauty' (Varner 2007) perform commendably. Standards are light to medium blue, the falls two tones deeper. The flowers are nice, wide, with simple form. Flower size, stalk height, stalk thickness, and foliage were all perfectly in class. Stalks carried 2 branches plus spur. The stalks stagger their bloom, making for an extended season of bloom. Good growth, with good bloom/increase ratio.

'Laced Handkerchief' (Cadd 2005) was one of the most voluptuous flowers seen in the whole OKC Convention. A huge, floriferous clump at the master planting at OSU was sensational, full of bright yellow blossoms, artfully embellished with an elaborate network of lace. The lace is embedded in an even richer golden band, more noticeable in the falls. Unfortunately, the iris is not in class. Although the flowers are close to the proper size for the class, the stalks consistently grew much taller than the registered 27" – more like 34-37", although they are fairly thin and flexuous. Plant habits are exceptional, with plentiful increase and pretty foliage. I hope it gets re-registered as a small-tall; even if not, the flowers are just too exquisite to deny. I have seen 'Mini Rainbow' (Cadd 2002) at previous conventions, but this year it really grew on me. Nicely ruffled flowers are a variegata-plicata in the tradition of 'Flamenco' (Keppel), with soft brown standards and cream falls widely banded in 'High Life' (Schreiner) red. Lovely, liting form, the flowers are the proper size for a BB. Unfortunately, as with 'Laced Handkerchief', the stalks are wonderful, just too tall. Still, a very desirable iris.

CLASSICS: 'Angel Feathers' (L.Markham 1973); 'Manzanita' (Hamblen 1972); 'Miss Goldilocks' (Hamner 1972).

Intermediate Bearded

'Barrel House Blues' (Baumunk 2004) reminded me of a "reverse" 'Honky Tonk Blues' (Schreiner, TB), with an unusual medium blue base color with shadows in deeper smoked blue, instead of lighter blue infiltrations as found in HTB. A very mystical menagerie of color blending. It has nice form, wide but simple, and very fine plant habits, remindful in quality as its sib, the deep violet Sass Medalist, 'Midsummer Night's Dream'

(Baumunk). 'Brickle' (Blyth 2000) is a festive color array, a pink-apricot ground plicata, heavily saturated with plicating in plum to near black, a very attractive combo, topped with burnt tangerine beards. Nicely formed, and produces show stalks which open two to three at once consistently. 'For Your Love' (Lauer 2002) impressed me in Nebraska because it overcame the weather woes in every garden in which it was guested. A simple blue, remindful of a modern version of the great Sass-winning IB classic, 'June Prom' (A. Brown) but in a cleaner shade of porcelain blue.

Waxy substance, the flowers well formed with moderate ruffling and horizontal falls. Excellent growth habits. 'Synergy' (Keppel 2004) was one of the best clumps in the Cundall Garden at the Median Convention in Nebraska, just starting to bloom. It is a somewhat smoky pink, then accented with a clean purple spray and sanding on the falls like a fancy plicata. Thick brilliant orange beards set off the whole flower. Wonderful form, horizontal falls, quite heavily ruffled. To be a "wash", it carries its color well across the garden. Outstanding plants habits, with good bloom/increase ratio and good branching. It was also sequencing its stalks to have a later wave of bloom stalks, extending its season of bloom.

I finally got to see a good specimen of 'Orageux' (Cayeux 1996), in the McGrath Garden in Albuquerque, and in spite of its age, added it to my wish list. A deep-deep variegata, with standards deep gold (approaching copper in depth) over black velvet falls with a wine haze. Deep copper beards compliment the array. Nicely shaped flowers, gently waved, with strong plant habits. Nothing like it on the market, and very suave. 'Satin Cut' (Blyth 2002) was a pleasant surprise in Albuquerque, both on the show bench and then later in an impressive clump in the White Garden. Wound up earning my vote for Favorite Median of the Trek. A strange, spooky shade of smoked blue, deeper than the silvery blue of its registration description. Then accented with a near-black beard. Reminded me of a scaled-down version of the TB, 'Mythology' (T. Johnson), maybe not quite as deep. The satin is more of a rich, luxurious mink finish, adding mystique to the effect. Wonderful branching and bud count with superb plant habits.

CLASSICS: 'Az Ap' (Ensminger 1980); 'Butter Cookie' (Gatty 1980); 'Why Not' (Hager 1980).

Standard Dwarf Bearded:

'Anubis' (M. Smith 2008), seen at the Nebraska Median Convention, is a suave beauty in richest deep black from the red side, complemented with a rich velvet pile. It is remindful in style of 'Devil Baby' (Keppel) but appears to have a better bloom/increase ratio. As with 'Devil Baby', the foliage is also a tad thick, but not to the point of deducting points. 'Microwave' (M. Smith 2007) is a wonderful light to medium blue, with just a hint of a deeper blue spot pattern around white beards. It

reminds me of a modern version of the classic Cook-Douglas Medalist, 'Sapphire Gem' (Schmelzer). Fantastic form, with horizontal falls and light to moderate ruffling. Excellent substance and texture with diamond dusting. Flawless plant habits; it withstood the test of a testy Mother Nature and survived the Nebraska late freeze unblemished. Also impressive at the Aril/Median Trek in Albuquerque in the White Garden on a first-year bloom. Also in the White Garden was a maiden bloom of 'Plainsong' (M. Smith 2007). Not your traditional blue-bearded pink SDB, it is a toned-down buff-orange, slightly more intense in the heart of the flower, then capped off with a stunning deep violet to indigo blue beard, appearing black from a distance. Very enthralling, very attractive. The form is rounded, the falls horizontal, and there is heavy ruffling throughout, compliments of its father, 'Cachet' (Black).

'Vivaldi' (Baumunk 2007), also seen in the White Garden in Albuquerque, proved once again that one of the greatest median parents of all time, 'Chubby Cheeks' (Black) still "has it"! Clean pure white base color caressed in plicata rims in the softest, sweetest baby blue. Diamond dusting gives carrying power to this subtle color array. It has that trademark wide, rounded 'Chubby Cheeks' form, completed with moderate ruffling. 'Break Yolk' (D. Miller 2002) is one of the older varieties reviewed this year, but I was impressed with it in both years leading up to the OKC convention. Cleverly named, the standards are palest yellow, approaching white. Falls then have an egg yolk spot pattern in rich full yellow, edged in the color of the standards. Impressive was its toughness and resilience to adverse weather conditions, its vigor and floriferousness, and its cheery disposition in the garden. 'Classic Sunrise' (B. Jones 2005) is well named, a melodious, unique combo of colors, with apricot sherbet and soft lemon blended, with the falls more intense in the center, gradually transforming to a softer color on the edges. Bright carrot orange beards complete the ensemble.

'Fine Idea' (Black 2005) is a subtle fancy medium blue-violet plicata with beards that are tangerine in the heart of the flower. It is subtle but distinctive; the pattern in the falls reminded me of that of the TB, 'Athens' (T. Johnson). It has nice shape and excellent substance. Excellent growth habits, with foliage the proper thickness. Floriferous, with a good bloom/increase ratio, producing stalks with one branch, three buds (even in Nebraska, where the late freeze had compromised the bud count in many medians). 'Fingertips' (Black 2004) produced huge, rampant clumps, with stalks tall enough to clear the foliage. A wonderful color pattern, with a soft light to medium golden-yellow base color, then a diffused spot pattern in the falls in charcoal, bleeding irregularly into texture veins towards the edges – a nice effect, and well named. Full orange beards add character. Substance in this type of SDB has traditionally been subpar; here it is surprisingly sturdy. 'Sequel' (Black 2005) is a pert violet on white plicata, different in that the stitching is approached from the orchid side, against a silvery-white

base color. Deep in the heart of the flower is a suggestion of tangerine in the beard. Its colors were prettier in cold Nebraska than here in Oklahoma, and its resilience to overcome the most adverse of conditions was impressive, with floriferous bloom and rampant growth habits. 'Wish Upon A Star' (Black 2006) is a charmer, and it appears it will be a benchmark in a huge stable of quality medians recently released by this expert hybridizer. Brilliant white beards appear in the midst of deepest violet, like stars twinkling against the velvet of a midnight sky. Exciting on the show bench, but the true impact is in the garden on a full, established clump. Average growth and increase with exceptional floriferousness.

CLASSICS: 'Altus' (Dennis 1973); 'Kentucky Bluegrass' (B. Jones 1971); 'Puppet' (Hager 1969); 'Tinkerbell' (Douglas 1954).

Miniature Dwarf Bearded

'Chemistry' (Black 2003) is a cute little number, with burnished rose standards over deeper red-purple falls, accented with a thick burnt orange beard. The form and ruffling are inherited from its 'Tweety Bird' lineage. Consistently in class each and every year, with outstanding plant habits. 'Cold Snap' (Black 2003) is also from 'Tweety Bird' via Paul's outstanding MDB, 'Tingle'. I call it a "barely-plic" because there are just a few plic markings in pale violet which lose their color as the flower ages. Cold-cold white actually has a suggestion of green in its makeup, especially in the standards' midribs. Flowers are so wide and rounded they almost look out of class, but they are in compliance. 'Dollop of Cream' (Black 2006) is a warm creamy white glaciata with self beards. It has rounded form and a lovely chiffon texture. First-year bloom was in class, with proper flower size and height of stalk. Cute name.

Several MDBs from Dorothy Willott and her late husband, Tony, are impressive, year after year. A favorite is 'Little Drummer Boy' (Willott 1997), a pure *I. pumila* in white with a dazzling deep blue spot in the falls. Cute tiny florets. Unfortunately, this far south, it is difficult to maintain pure *I. pumilas*, even though we do get a fair amount of really cold weather in the winter. 'Crown of Snow' (Willott 2001), although from 'Little Drummer Boy', has as its other parent, 'Ice and Indigo', one of the Willotts' most famous SDBs, and consequently isn't as difficult to keep going here. This has stunning contrast, with pure, cold white standards against rich deep red-violet falls with a wire rim in white. Cream beards add the finishing touch. 'Ice Cherub' (Willott 2000) is a glistening icy blue-white with light blue beards, wonderfully formed and consistently in class. A mound of bloom of this one is memorable. Similar, but in solid light blue, is 'Small Blessings' (Willott 1999), still competitive with the newer releases and still a charmer, year after year, leaving a lasting impression.

'Minikin' (Ensminger 1998) is a colorful character which I had

never seen until I spied it over in the “Ensminger Bed” at the Gary White Garden in Lincoln. It reminds me of a scaled-down version of the reblooming SDB, ‘What Again’ (Ensminger 1991), with dark violet standards keeping watch over unusual saffron yellow falls, capped with deep violet beards. Tight, cute form.

CLASSICS: ‘Grandma’s Hat’ (Mahood 1957), ‘Kid Sister’ (A. Brown 1972), ‘Small Gem’ (Hamblen 1972).

Arilbreds

A trio of arilbred-medians are significant advancements in the class. The star is ‘Suspect’ (T. Johnson 2006, OGB-), a rich violet that is heavily overcast in blue, most rare in arilbreds. The falls are a gentler rosy-violet, but then shot with blue-violet veining and a punctuating crimson-red spot surrounding the beards. Magnificent plant habits. From the looks of the AIS awards in 2008, the Median Symposium results, and the MIS Display Garden reports, it is confirmed this new arilbred-median is performing admirably throughout the country. ‘Chain Reaction’ (Tasco 2007, OGB-) is another one of the best new arilbred medians, second only to ‘Suspect’. Intoxicating color in richest mahogany wine with a magnificent velvet pile. There is a hint of a black signal pattern, making the flowers glow. It reminded me of a scaled-down version of its father, the great ‘Concerto Grosso’ (Mathes). ‘Hammurabi’ (Baumunk 2004, OGB) is a fascinating, rare half-bred arilbred-median, the father being the great white MTB, ‘Astra Girl’ (Varner). Of moderate height, the standards are medium purple, heavily netted with deeper violet and red veining. The falls are a white base, but then heavily covered in a complex network of similar colored veining, with more rose in its makeup. In place of a signal pattern, that area of the falls is a heavier concentration of veining. Tidy, compact flowers are more oval in shape than the traditional globular onco look. It has a long bloom season, still in bloom during convention in the master planting at OSU.

‘Crown of Splendor’ (McGrath 2005, OGB) has been impressive in Oklahoma, but of course was exceptional in the home garden in Albuquerque. Standards are nearly solid white, with palest lilac veins apparent only upon closest inspection. Falls are golden bronze, toned down somewhat with beige. Then, in the tradition of Pete’s mentor, Howard Shockey, there is a large bold deep red signal, like a beacon, distinctly predominating the rounded, recurved falls. Global form in classic onco. The garden impact is memorable. ‘Gideon’s Lamp’ (McGrath 2004, OGB) is similar in style and color presentation, but from totally different bloodlines. Standards are white with more of a flush of yellow in the midribs. Falls are also white, but heavily washed yellow, with an even more intense yellow blaze hosting a decorative brown chevron-shaped signal. ‘Penninah’s Provocation’ (McGrath 2004, OGB) was among my

favorites of the McGrath introductions in the home garden, second only to 'Refiner's Fire'. Pete had several stalks open on tour day, and each was showing off with impressive consistency. Standards are a rich full lilac to orchid; the falls beige, veined throughout in burgundy with a startling, exotic black-burgundy signal. Stalks are consistently at two feet in height with some branching, three to four buds per stalk.

'Holy Moly Plum' (Chacon 2007, OGB) is a fun new half-bred with a festive name from a relatively new breeder from California. The base color is light grape-violet, but then the entire flower is bombarded with a heavy network of deep plum veining, accented with a large, even deeper plum-violet signal pattern in the falls. It carries an amazing amount of ruffling and fluting for a half-bred arilbred. 'Noble Warrior' (Tasco 2007, OGB) is an exciting new offering from a California hybridizer who is really starting to make a name for himself in arilbred breeding. Standards are creamy ivory with gradually intensifying flushes of yellow in the midribs. Falls are a golden yellow base, garnished with burgundy veining and a bold, huge deeper red signal. Growth habits are exceptional; I suspect even those gardens who have difficulty growing arilbreds will grow this half-bred with ease. 'Rivers of Babylon' (Baumunk 2004, OGB) is a choice arilbred in a beautiful array of colors. Standards are lavender, with suggestions of blue in their makeup, gradually lightening at the edges. The falls are a blend of tan to yellow, then pulling in the lavender of the standards at the edges of the falls. Large red-brown signals are perfectly shaped and dominate the flower. From the outstanding 'Lancer' (Shockey), this is one of the best half-breds on the market today. 'Kalifa's Fortune' (Annand 2001, OGB) is a dynamo color gem, with standards a strong rose with lavender veining throughout. Then the falls blend the rose color of the standards with intense coppery-brown overlaid in bold fashion. Intense maroon signals below brown beards add drama. The color is luscious; the form outstanding. Some stalks showed evidence of snaking, but this defect was not present in the entire clump. The carrying power of the color array in the garden, and the flower's ability to retain its intensity through the life of the flower, was most impressive.

The next four arilbreds, though certainly not new, were not found when I went back through my Contemporary Views database, and therefore have never been reviewed here. 'Babylonian Fires' (Rich-Whitely 1992, OGB) is a parent of new 'Refiner's Fire' (McGrath, reviewed in the Awards Section), and you can certainly see where it gets its magnificent color. Standards are deep rose with lavender undertones and some gold in the midribs. Falls carry an even richer glow of deep rose into a blending of orange and mahogany. It has a deep black signal with a reddish tint. I first discovered 'Judean Oasis' (Whitely 1994, OGB) at the Oklahoma Iris Society (OIS) show in 2007, but then also got to evaluate its plant habits in a couple of area gardens later that week. It is a wonderful yellow amoena, similar in style to its mother,

‘Syrian Moon’ (Brizendine), with clean bright white standards with just a flush of yellow in the midribs. It then sports a somewhat smaller, moderate-sized deep brown-black spot, not as large but with better definition than its parent. Outstanding globular form; commendable plant habits. ‘Mohr Pretender’ (Rich 1978, OGB) is still one of my all-time favorite arilbreds. As with ‘Jonnye’s Magic’ (reviewed in the Awards section), it is dependable, year after year, resistant to any curve ball Mother Nature may decide to pitch that spring. This shade of soft blue is still all-too-rare, even today, in arilbreds. Globular flowers are embellished with a non-spectacular violet signal etched at the beards. Color and consistency are the strong assets here. I recommend both to the novice irisarian wanting to venture into the world of arilbreds. ‘Peggy’s Song’ (Wilson 1997, OGB) is a charming, somewhat older English variety not so widely grown as many of the popular arilbreds from Geoff Wilson. Standards are a soft violet blue. The falls a medley of colors blended, with the base color primarily lemon yellow, then veined in varying degrees of violet and rose, topped off with a large dark purple signal. Form is typically globular, and carries the strong plant habits of its famous father, ‘Zerzura’ (Hager).

‘Frank rice’ (Rice-Annand 2002, OGB+) is a 3/4-bred which appears to grow quite well in different climates. The base color is lavender, slightly lighter in the falls. Then, throughout the flower, the petals are intricately veined in purple to maroon, more intense in the falls. The falls are capped with a distinctive deep maroon to brown signal. The form is stylishly elongated, rather than onco, showing its *I. korolkowii* lineage. ‘Masada’s Glory’ (Whitely 2002, OGB+) is a regal affair, with pure white standards atop a more creamy base color in the falls, lightly sanded with tan, but then emblazoned with a dashing, dominant dark red-wine signal. Spectacular contrast. This 3/4-bred is a respectably strong grower here in central Oklahoma. ‘Qumran Canary’ (Danielson 2000, OGB+) was dazzling in the Albuquerque sun. The primary color is old gold to brass yellow. The falls are heavily saturated with rich maroon, brown, and brass, with deeper veining and refined flecks of purple mixed in. Then there is a narrow golden edge as you often find in medians. A very unique 3/4-bred.

One last entry I gotta tell you about. One of the highlights for me was walking into the Albuquerque Show during the Aril/Median Trek and seeing a specimen of ‘Purple Sequin’ (Shockey 1992), a pure aril – AR (OG) – nonchalantly sitting on the show bench amongst the other entries. Only 10” tall, it is a milky white self with a dazzling deep purple signal embroidered into the falls. I let out a yelp when I discovered it, for most folks (including the local experts) thought this little jewel had met the fate of extinction. As you know, pure arils can be very difficult to grow. Many never see commerce, and this was one of the few that Howard ever officially released. Cindy Rivera (Trek Organizer

Supreme) to the rescue! Apparently she picked up a sprig of it shortly before Howard's death. She wasn't even sure she had the real thing – at least until it had increased enough to bloom this spring!

CLASSICS: 'Bib N' Tuck' (Foster 1968, Arilbred-Median); 'Dove Song' (Flanagan 1967); 'Esther the Queen' (Hunt 1968); 'Lahara' (Sundt 1964); 'Prolific' (Clark 1966); 'Radiant Smile' (Danielson 1968).

Spurias

'Adriatic Blue' (Niswonger 1996) is a deep lustrous blue with bright yellow falls with a band of the standards' color and some of the blue infiltrating into the yellow base. High quality deep blues are remarkably rare in Spurias—this one remains among the best. 'Arizonique' (Jenkins 1998) has standards and midribs in full lavender with some yellow blended in. The falls start out light yellow, but gradually transform into a bleeding edge in lavender. The form is flaring, giving the flower a nice lilt. 'Billowing Clouds' (Jenkins 2000) is smaller in stature, with moderate-sized flowers on stalks moderate in height. Pure waxy white with the bright yellow signal pattern dominating the falls. The flowers are heavily waved with moderate ruffling, providing a very airy look to the ensemble. 'Butter Ripples' (Jenkins 1999) is tall and imposing, a butter yellow self with heavy ruffling and even a suggestion of lace. Bright and showy from across the garden. 'Elfin Sunshine' (Jenkins 1998) is a wonderful example of the smaller, shorter Spurias that Mr. Jenkins has been working, and is my personal favorite of the grouping. Here we have a light yellow, gradually deepening at the edges of the petals. Petite and charming with tight crimping for ruffling – and a nice change of pace from the tall, regal varieties we are used to seeing in Spurias. A welcomed addition for the landscape. 'Sun Halo' (Jenkins 1998) is a bold blending of colors, with brown standards with a touch of yellow blended into the base. Falls are bright sunshine yellow with a halo in the color of the standards. A high-quality Spuria from the famous 'Janice Chesnik' (McCown).

CLASSICS: 'Contradiction' (Ferguson 1963), 'Dark and Handsome' (Ferguson 1966), 'Lydia Jane' (Walker 1965), 'Media Luz' (Hager 1968), 'Neophyte' (Hager 1965).

Louisianas

'Arrows' (Dunn-Ghio 1998) is a perky lavender with eloquent deeper texture veining throughout the flower. Lime green line signals are distinctive, appearing on all six petals to form the "arrows"; very clever. Wide rounded form with moderately heavy ruffling. The flower carries an attractive silky sheen that adds life to the flower. 'Divorcee' (Ghio 2001) is a distinctive, fun iris. A colorful rich blend of apricot in the standards, joined with rose-pink in the falls. The twist on this one is the bold deep rose streak running right down the center of the

falls. My sometimes-too-vivid imagination could conjure up all kinds of risqué descriptions for the effect, such as a “wild hair” or “sowing wild oats”, or.....I’ll leave it at that. ‘Honey Galore’ (Betzer 2000) is a tight, compact honey brown with a minimum amount of infusions of buff and amber. The color has excellent carrying power and, most importantly, has been sunfast, not always the case in this color of Louisianas. In proportion to its flower size, the stalks are shorter, with the excellent branching and placement as its parent, ‘Gladiator’s Gift’ (Taylor). It also has a leathery texture very much in harmony with the color scheme.

A trio from Down Under was impressive. ‘Buoyant’ (Taylor 1999) is nearly a yellow amoena, with white standards blended in the heart with light yellow. Light yellow falls are accented with green signals. The hallmark Taylor ruffling is well represented here, with deep billowing ruffles throughout the flower and wide, nearly overlapping body parts. ‘Lost for Words’ (Pryor 1998) is unlike anything else currently on the market. Difficult to describe, it is basically a soft buff-orange self with some undertones in rose-pink to add life to the flower. Discreet yellow signals are then outlined in maroon eyeliner, adding intrigue. Gently ruffled in an elegant fashion. Just the opposite effect is ‘Wow Factor’ (Pryor 2001), an innocent yellow ground color then exploding with a shocking network of brilliant maroon veining all over the flower, deeper and even more intense in the falls. Look closely and you’ll find an orange line signal deep in the jungle. Simply stunning, and carries all the fine plant habits and blooming qualities of its father, ‘Rokki Rockwell’ (Haymon).

CIRCE’S APPEAL (Faith 2005) is nothing new in color in Louisianas, but nonetheless a high-quality, attractive iris. Rich medium bluebird blue from the Aussie, ‘Dural Bluebird’ (Taylor). Its coloration is clear, the form very pleasing, presented on tall impressive stalks with well-spaced branching. JUNE’S PICK (Faith 2002) is a frothy light to medium yellow, given freshness with a definite influence of lime green in its makeup. The texture is deceiving, different from most Louisianas on the market, reminding me of the “creped” look of the Stout winning daylily, ‘Brocaded Gown’. In spite of this “bubbled” look, it has sufficient substance through the life of the flower.

RAE RAE (Faith 2004), named for one of the Faith granddaughters, is a delicate medium blue with a hairline picoteed halo in silver. Medium sized flowers are displayed on rather tall, strong stalks with 3 branches, holding up well after heavy rains. Vigorous, rampant growth with pretty foliage. Consistently good in OKC and in Austin, outstanding at the Murphy Garden.

CLASSICS: BAYOU CANDELABRA (Arny 1974), CHARJOY’S JAN (Arny 1978), CREOLE CANARY (Granger 1978), MISS ARKANSAS (Chowning 1978). 

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May 15, 2009 – August 15, 2009

Compiled by Donna James, Donations Secretary

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How to Make your Donation to One of the AIS Funds

- Donations to AIS Fund Accounts should be made payable to: AIS or the American Iris Society.
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Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for the research of the genus *Iris*, administration of scholarships and support of the AIS Library. Iris research includes taxonomy of the genus, as well as disease causes and cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to top Iris researchers and educational institutions throughout the world.

July 2009 – September 2009

Contributions in memory of:

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How can you make a contribution or memorial gift to the American Iris Society Foundation?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation. When sending a memorial gift, please include the name and address of the next-of-kin, so an acknowledgement card may be sent. Your tax-deductible donations should be sent to:

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Please see the Foundation website at www.aisfoundation.org for further information.

IRIS RESOURCES – SLIDE AND DIGITAL PROGRAMS UPDATED PROGRAMS

A picture is worth a thousand words. For an interesting and educational meeting, an AIS Slide or Digital program may satisfy and stimulate your chapter's interest in all types of irises.

Cost: The rental fee is \$10.00 plus \$5.00 shipping. AIS Affiliate Chapters are entitled to one free set per year plus \$5.00 shipping

payable to AIS, and mailed to the address below. Only one set is allowed per request date. Slides are to be returned by Priority Mail the day after viewing. *Use bubble envelope or box ONLY – not padded envelope, please!*

To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. *Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.*

The following SLIDE programs are available for rent:

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Iris Introductions of: 2003

AIS National Conventions of: 2003, 2004

The Iris Family This updated set is an introduction to the world of iris. It shows the different classes of bearded and beardless iris and the different species of iris. It can be used for all levels of viewers, new to experienced iris growers. Great for garden club programs.

Beardless Irises

Iris Color and Patterns Terminology Defines BiTone, BiColor, Neglecta, Luminata etc. and is short enough to have a Q & A session.

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We are very excited by the new digital technology and the ability to produce HIGH QUALITY pictures in PowerPoint Programs. All programs are in PowerPoint format with free PPT Reader for those who do not have PPT plus a folder with just JPGS of the whole program to be used for the newer projectors that use a USB flash-drive instead of a computer.

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- *AIS Conventions 2008-Austin*
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- *Awards of AIS – All AIS awards and medals, their history and winners from 2003 to 2009*
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Upon request, any CD program can be ordered in DVD format for \$15.00 Each.

DVD: AIS Conventions 2008, Austin – \$15.00 (includes shipping)

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To rent slide sets or to purchase CDs/DVDs, contact:

Janet Smith, P O Box 1585, Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585;
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Due to the increased usage of digital pictures in lieu of Slides, there are few NEW Slide programs.

Many Affiliates still request only Slides Programs. If you have slides of Newer irises, we would appreciate having them to make new Slide programs as copying digital to slides is very expensive. Please send them priority mail and we will promptly have them copied and return to you.

Members and Affiliates:

We have many new CD programs “in the works” including: “Irises Through The Seasons”, “Iris Color Patterns and Definitions”. If you have suggestions for new iris programs or have a great presentation on irises you would like to share with others, please contact me and we’ll see about incorporating it into the AIS Slides Program!

Hybridizers:

Each year we will put together a program for “NEW INTRODUCTIONS”. We request both slides and digital pictures of your 2010 introductions. This is a great opportunity for new introductions to be seen in different parts of the country and whet the appetites of already confirmed iris lovers for new and different varieties and types of irises. Be sure to send your BEST photographs for this is your “face” to the iris buying public! We show the Hybridizers in alphabetic order with an intro slide with the Name, Address, Telephone, e-mail and website address for each. We do reserve the right to limit the total number of pictures to fit in a presentation time frame.

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

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Basic Iris Culture. Booklets. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs or shows. \$1.50 ea., or 25 for \$15.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas

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AIS can now accept VISA & Mastercard (sorry, no other charge cards) for Storefront orders (minimum order: \$10.00). When charging your order, please include card type and number, expiration date and phone number.

Prices include postage and handling. The Storefront ships via media mail.

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SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check for \$7.50 to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Robert & Linda Karr, 205 North Craig Avenue, Newport, WA 99156-9706; (509) 447-2552; iris@sprucecorner.com Rental fee \$10.00. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Japanese Irises.

Louisiana: Donna Wolford, 2605 Oakhaven Street, Palm Bay, FL 32905; (321) 724-1676; <n8kxp@cfl.rr.com>; \$10 check to SLI.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check for \$5.00 to Median Iris Society (MIS). One set free per year to affiliates.

Pacific Coast Native Irises: Contact Terri Hudson, 33450 Little Valley Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; (707) 964 3907; <irishud@earthlink.net>. Rental fee \$7.50 to SPCNI. Two sets available, species or hybrids.

Rebloomers: Contact Alex Stanton, 1074 Robertson Drive, Escondido, CA 92025 (760) 489-1490; <stanton-ad-kw@juno.com>. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

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AIS Bulletin Ad Rates

“Without advertising, a terrible thing happens... nothing!”

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. *We can not accept MS Publisher or WordPerfect files, as we do not have software to open them.* Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: August 15 (October issue); November 15 (January issue), February 15 (April issue), May 15 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: Robert Keup <AISAdvertising@irises.org>.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each *Bulletin*. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2¼ inch wide.

\$44.00	15/16 inch
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Note new display advertising rates! January 2008, rates were rolled back to those in effect as of the July 2004 Bulletin. Contact Robert A. Keup; 826 Main Rd; Phippsburg, ME 04562; 207-389-1043; <AISAdvertising@irises.org>

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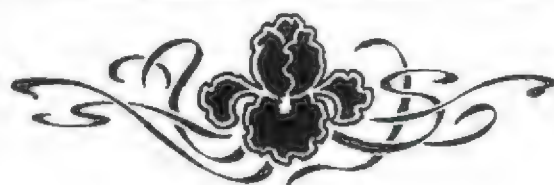


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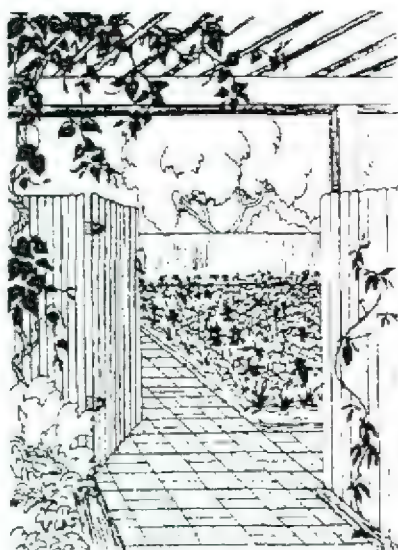
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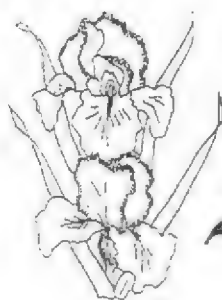
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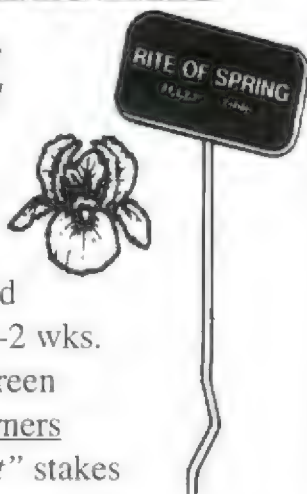
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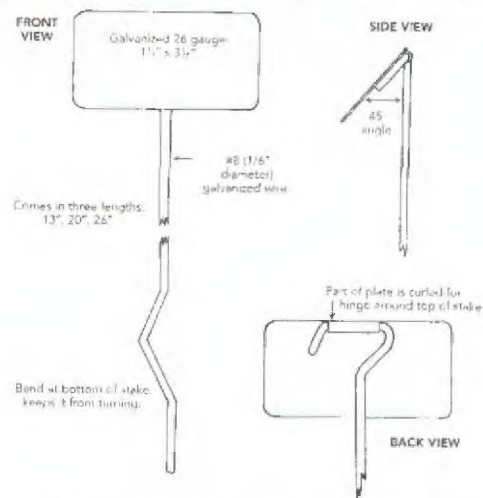
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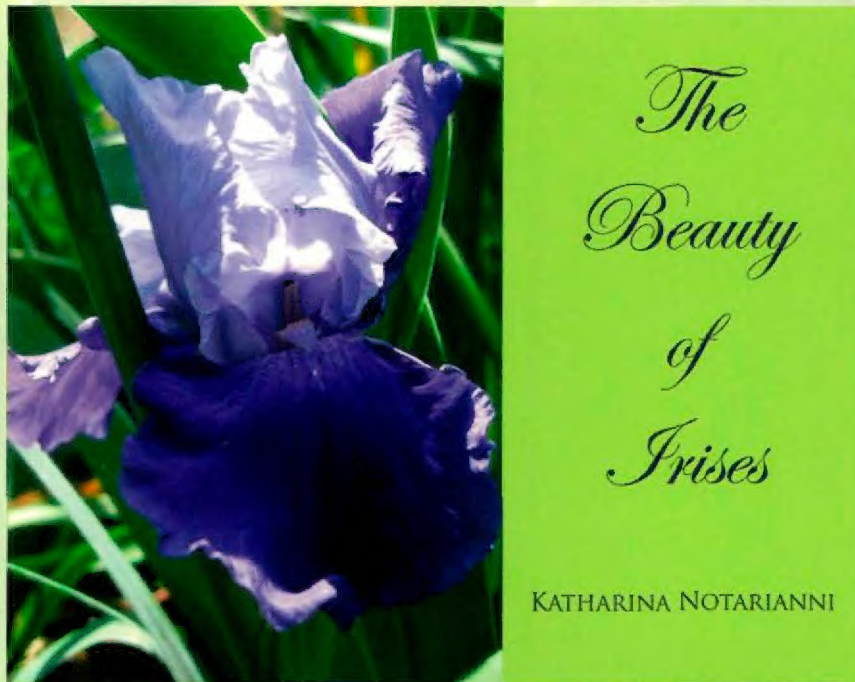
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